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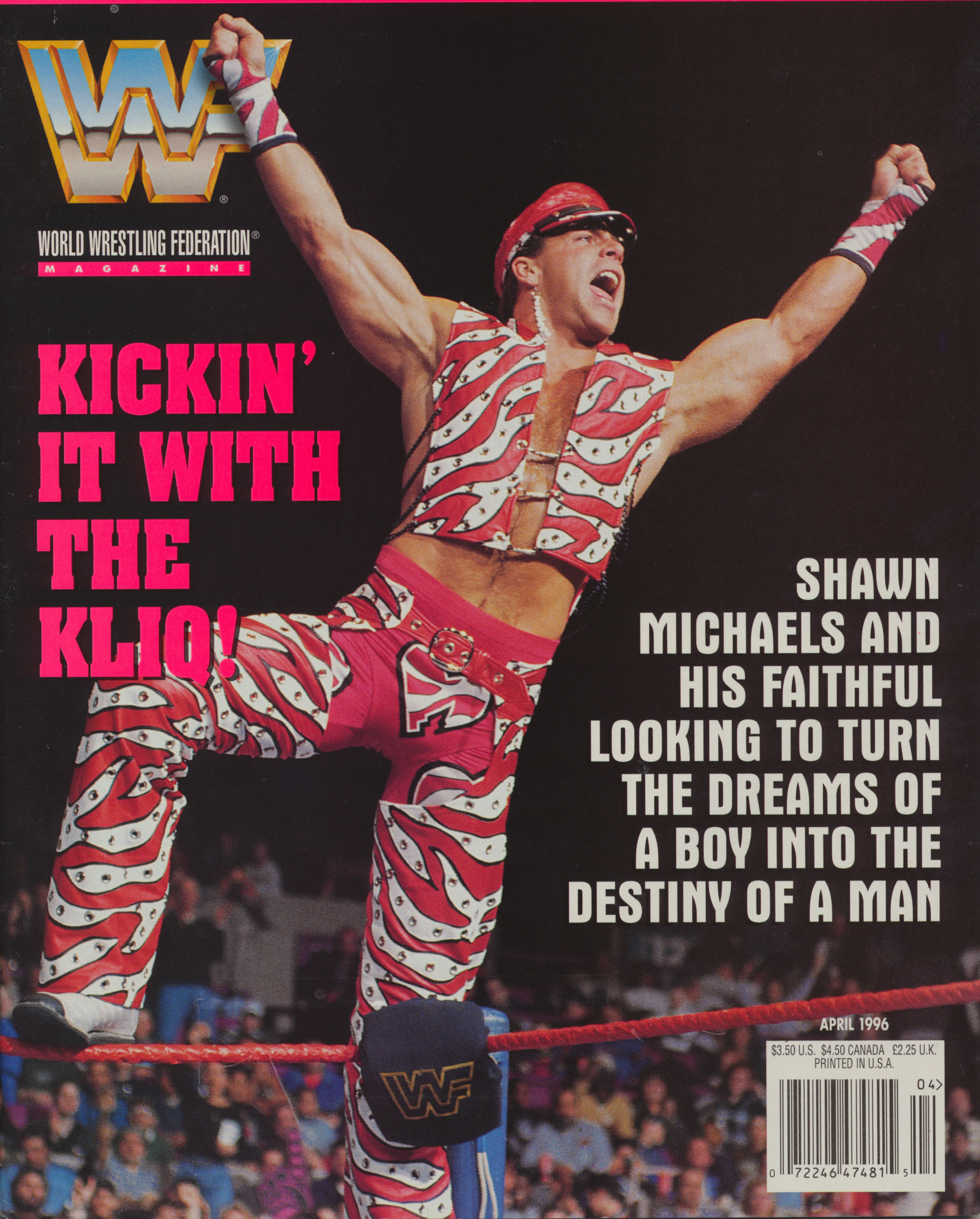
MAGAZINE



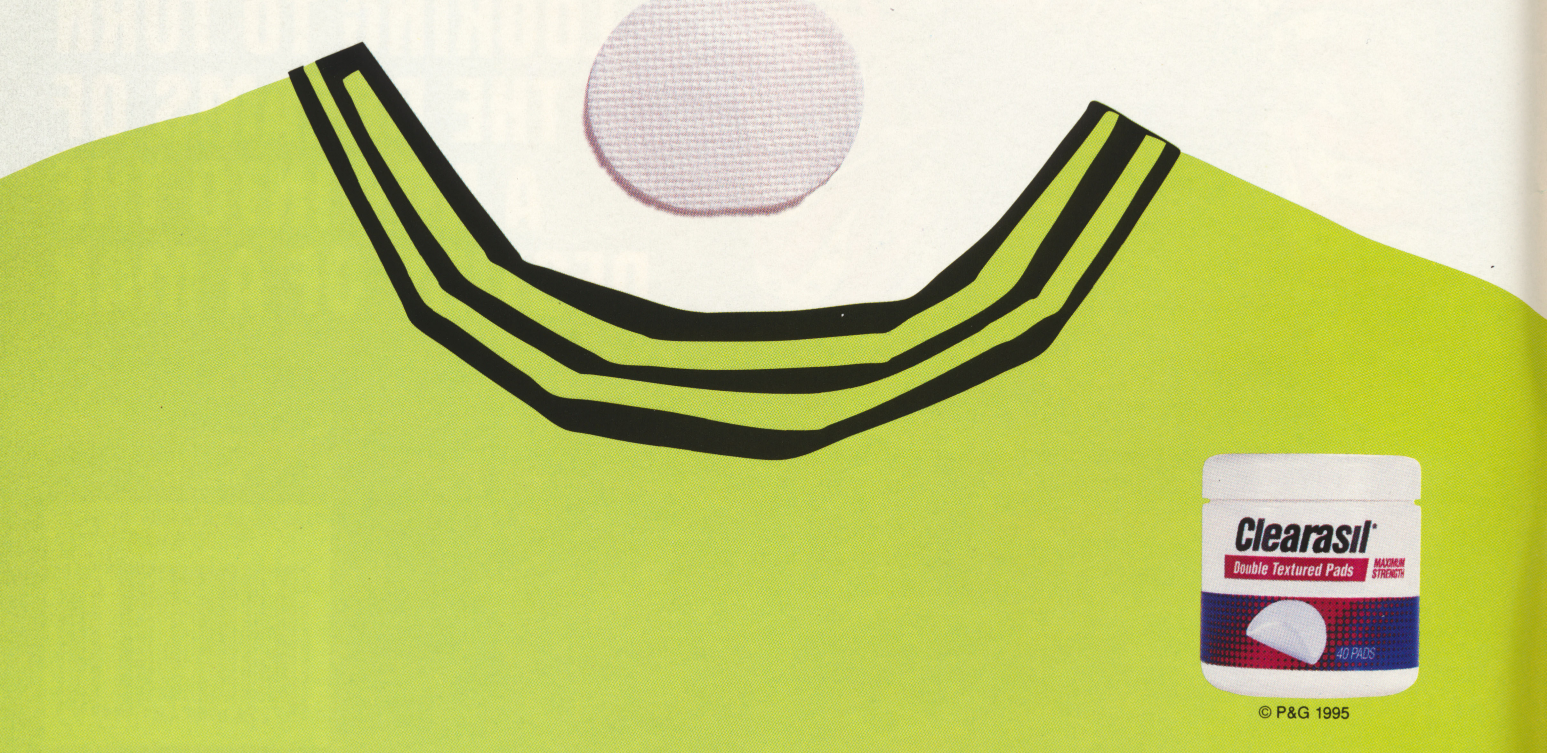
KICKIN' IT WITH THE KLIQ!

SHAWN MICHAELS AND HIS FAITHFUL LOOKING TO TURN THE DREAMS OF A BOY INTO THE DESTINY OF A MAN

APRIL 1996

$3.50 U.S. $4.50 CANADA £2.25 U.K.
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

WHAT ARE THEY LOOKING AT? ME OR THIS BIG FAT ZIT? THIS BULLSEYE IN THE MIDDLE OF MY FOREHEAD? ISN'T THERE SOMETHING THAT CAN BLAST IT OUT OF MY LIFE? THAT DIGS DOWN AND DEEP CLEANS WITH MORE KILLER STUFF THAN THE NUMBER ONE PAD TO ZAP ZITS? IN FACT, ISN'T THAT SOMETHING THIS WICKED LITTLE PAD FROM CLEARASIL®?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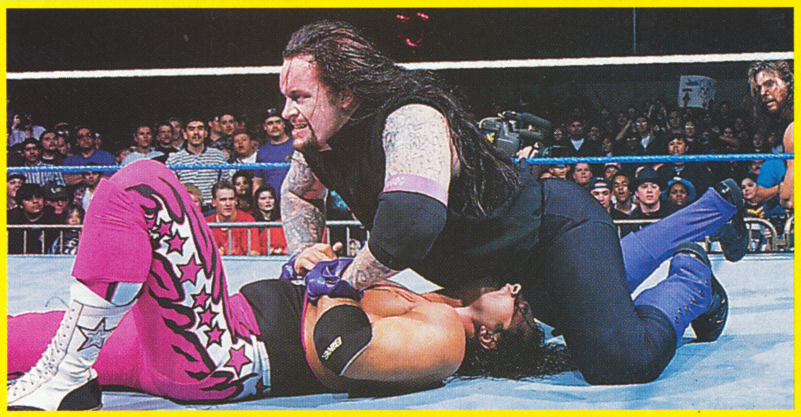

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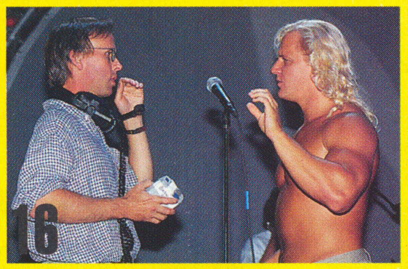

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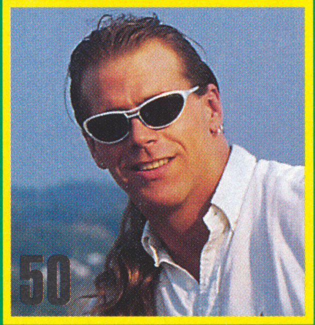

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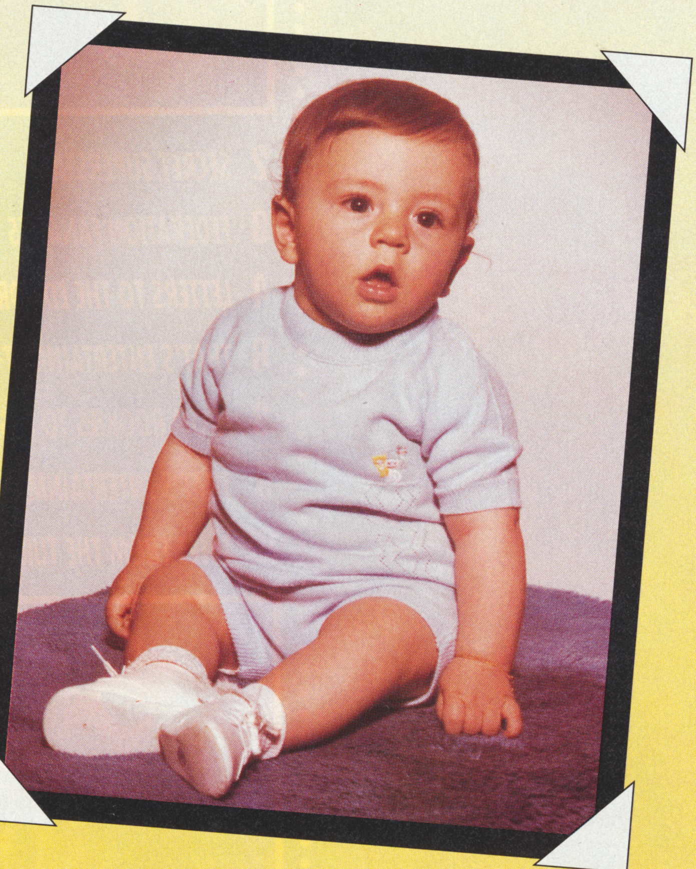
CAN YOU GUESS THE SECRET SUPERSTAR

Draped in the colors of his country, this month's Secret Superstar holds the pride of his homeland very close to his heart.



HINTS:

1. This month's Secret Superstar arrived in the Federation like a "million" bucks when, on his first day on the job, he told a very "giving" Ted DiBiase to keep his filthy money because he wanted no part of it.

2. In one of the greatest upsets in Federation history, this month's Secret Superstar shocked the wrestling world when he defeated Double J Jeff Jarrett in a highly controversial match aired on Federation television.

3. When it comes to high-impact aerial maneuvers, this much underrated Secret Superstar may very well be one of the best in the Federation.

4. Recently, this month's Secret Superstar has been tag teaming with another Federation superstar with whom he has something very much in common.

THE SECRET SUPERSTAR IS: __________ __________

ANSWER ON PAGE 64

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®
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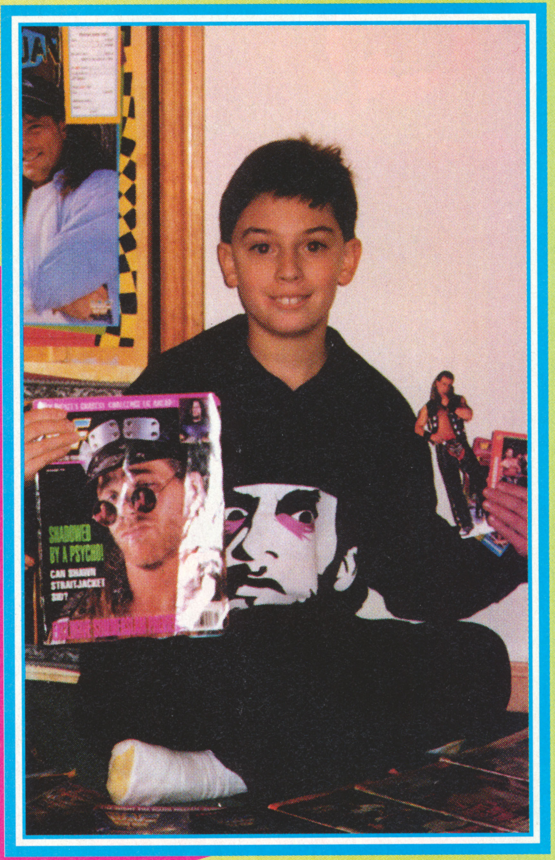
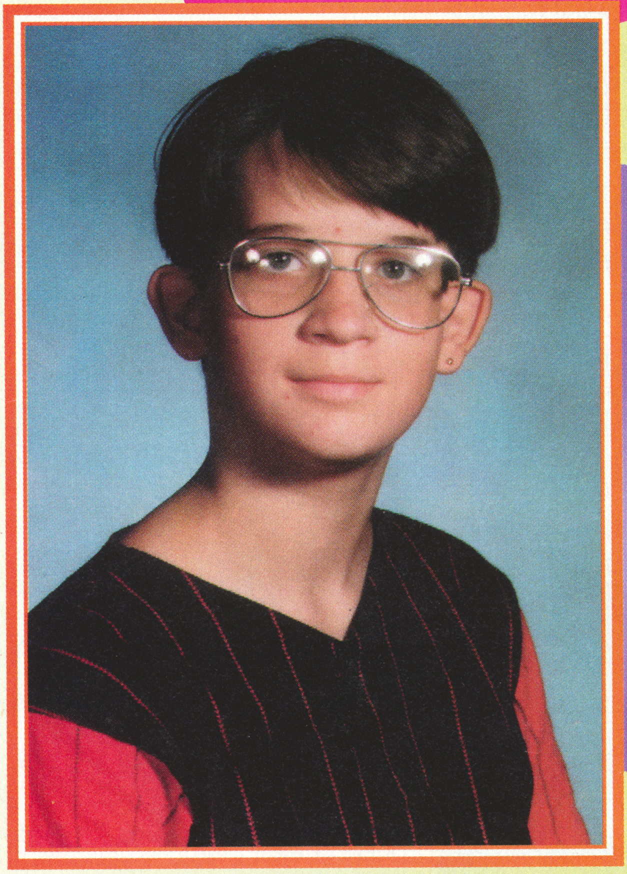
FEDERATION FANatics

Name: Lenny Iannizzotto
Age: 9
Hometown: Lake Katrine, New York
School: Crosby
Grade: Fourth
Future Ambition: Hockey player
Favorite Federation Superstar: Shawn Michaels
Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Jerry Lawler
What I like best about the World Wrestling Federation: Watching the shows live
If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would: Get ringside seats at every show
What I do when I'm not watching the World Wrestling Federation: Play Sega, Nintendo and play outside


SHADOWED BY A PSYCHO!
CAN SHAWN STRAITJACKET SID?



Name: Eric Steinmetz
Age: 14
Hometown: Oxford Township, New Jersey
Grade: Ninth
Future Ambition: To be a teacher
Favorite Federation Superstar: Big Daddy Cool Diesel
Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Hunter Hearst-Helmsley
What I like best about the World Wrestling Federation: When I watch Monday Night Raw and start screaming when someone is losing
If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would: Put more than one referee in the ring at once in a tag team match-up
What I do when I'm not watching the World Wrestling Federation: I go camping and relax

QUESTIONS, COMM

There is no time limit!!

World Wrestling Federation Magazine Interactive is a no-time-limit, no-holds-barred, communicative channel where you can connect with the Federation any day or night in order to bodyslam us with your opinions and views! We've opened up the ring ropes to offer you many lines of communication. Whether it be by fax, phone, E-mail or post office, our cauliflower ears are open to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! So, don't be a ham-n-egger!!! Spill your ideas, and voice your opinions—WE WANT TO HEAR `EM!

How to reach us!!

For subscription questions, orders, renewals and change-of-address requests, call 904-445-4320.

To reach the editor, use any of the methods listed below:

FAX your comments, questions and suggestions to:
203-359-5118

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WWFEDITOR@AOL.COM

WRITE us at:
World Wrestling Federation Magazine,
c/o Vince Russo, Editor,
P.O. Box 3859,
Stamford, CT 06905.

Letter:

Dear Editor,
In the January 1996 issue of *World Wrestling Federation Magazine*, you interviewed Skip and Sunny of the Body Donnas. During that interview Sunny kept mentioning the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels. Do you think she has a thing for him—or not?

Chris Hallis
Modesto, CA

Dear Chris,
Even though I am the editor of this magazine, Sunny's personal life is none of my business. HOWEVER, if you asked me that question off the record, I would have to say—YES!

Fax:

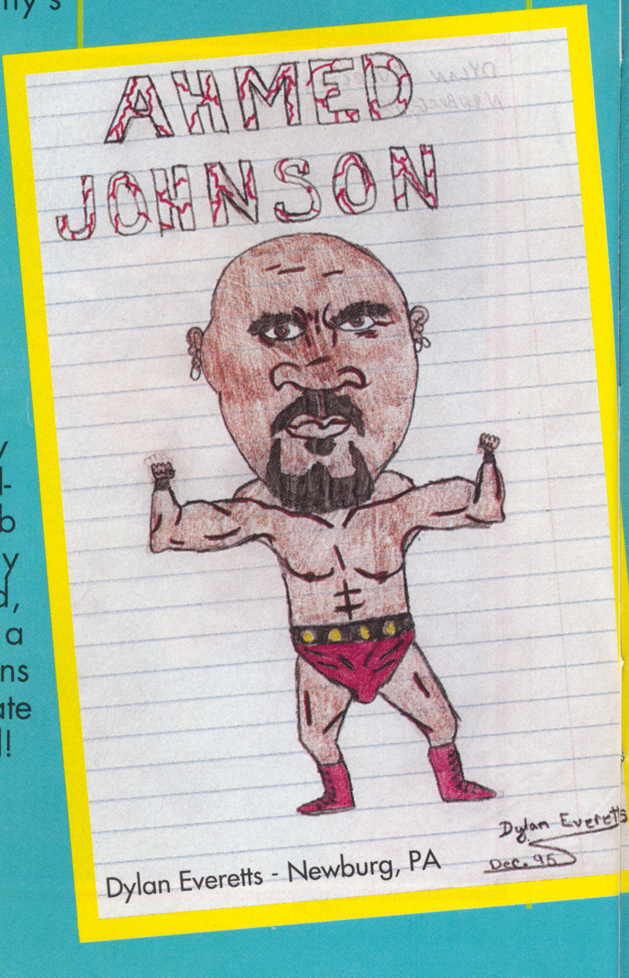
Dear Editor,
You people of the New Generation have no admiration for Mr. Bob Backlund. If everybody followed Mr. Backlund, the world would be a Utopia! All you plebeians must pay the appropriate attention to Mr. Backlund!

Jessie Chan
Wisconsin

Dear Jessie,
A Utopia? Jessie, I think you've been hitting that rum candy again!

E-mail:

Dear Editor,
Recently I read the Rookies to Legends story on Barry Horowitz in the December issue of *World Wrestling Federation Magazine*. All my life I have always given up when things seemed to be getting tough. If the odds were stacked heavily against



Dylan Everetts - Newburg, PA

ents, and gossip

INTERACTIN' WITH THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

me, I just quit! Well, since reading the article on Horowitz, my attitude has changed! I will never let anyone or anything stand in my way again! Thank you, Barry, for showing me the way!

Barry Batston
Tampa, FL

Letter:

Dear Editor,
My dad and I are big fans of the Undertaker and Paul Bearer. We have noticed that since the Undertaker got his face smashed, his bald spot has gone away and he has more hair. It is our opinion that this is NOT the original Undertaker. Perhaps it is his younger brother. My dad and I would like to have confirmation on this matter.

Nicole Rothstein
Joel Rothstein
Chicago, IL

Dear Nicole and Joel,
What? Is everybody hitting that rum candy?! Let me assure you that there has been, is and always will be only one Undertaker. AND I don't think he's going to be too thrilled about that bald comment you made either!

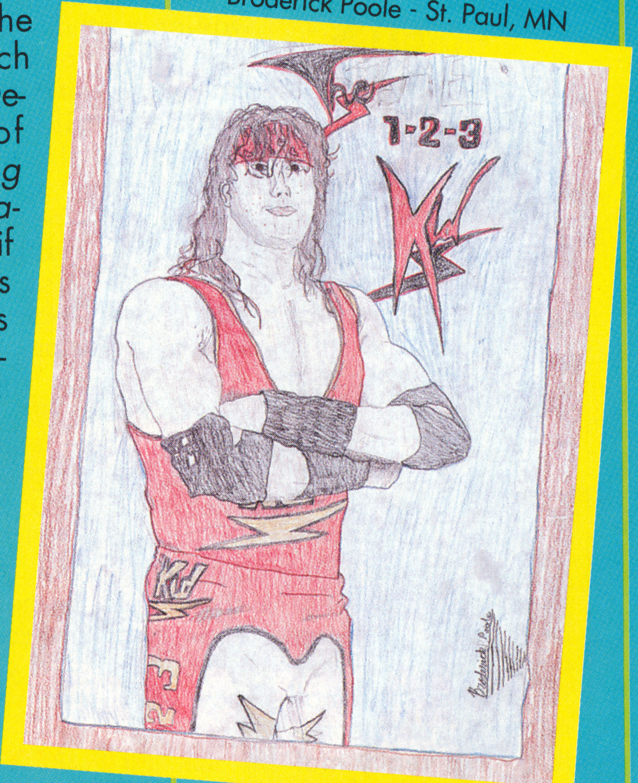
E-mail:

Dear Editor,
You had the opportunity to interview the British Bulldog and his big-mouth manager for In the Line of Fire, which appeared in the December issue of *World Wrestling Federation Magazine*. It seems as if Jim Cornette does all the Bulldog's talking. Does Cornette have the biggest mouth around, or does Bulldog just have nothing at all to "bark" about?

Mike Edwards
Sacramento, CA

Dear Mike,
In my opinion—Jim Cornette pretty much has the biggest MOUTH around!

Broderick Poole - St. Paul, MN



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- ROSS REPORT: OPTION 6
- CANADIAN REPORT: OPTION 7
- IN YOUR HOUSE POST-MATCH COMMENTS: OPTION 8

THAT'S ENTERTAINMAT

DOUBLE J JEFF JARRETT'S ALBUM REVIEW

How in heck's name did this here magazine exist without me? I mean, to have a grunge rocker replace me? My, my, my, Vincee baby, what in the good Lord's name were you thinkin' about? As if ANYONE could replace ol' Double J! I think you've been drinkin' too many of those cup-o-chinos—IF you know what I mean! Anyway, let's forget the small talk and get to something that really matters—ME! What better way to celebrate my return to the *World Wrestling Federation Magazine* than to have me review my latest gem, *Greater Than Great*, the CD that's sweepin' the country!

Now, while I was taking some time off to reflect back on my illustrious Federation career, I came up with the unique concept of *Greater Than Great*. Basically, the album is a remake of ol' songs that the original artists screwed up in one way or another. On top of that, not only did I succeed in turning these failures into hits, BUT I also dedicated them to various World Wrestling Federation superstars—and I use the term loosely—along the way! For example!

DOUBLE J

JEFF JARRETT

GREATER THAN GREAT

DOUBLE J
JEFF JARRETT
DOUBLE J JEFF JARRETT
GREATER THAN GREAT

PEARL RIVER RAP

Now, this here is one of the few original tunes on the CD. It's based on Ahmed Johnson, who got "rapped" in the head a few times too many by yours truly—if you know what I mean!

RUNNING ON EMPTY

Of course, this should be Diesel's new theme song. I mean, what does this guy have left? He claims to be BACK? He was never HERE to begin with!

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

Do you really believe for one minute that the Undertaker broke the orbital socket in his face and that's why he wore that dang ugly mask? Well, wake up, world! The true reason behind that mask was that the craters in the Undertaker's face got so bad he had to have them surgically filled!

LOVIN', TOUCHIN', SQUEEZIN'

Anybody out there with even half a brain knows that this is what Sunny wants to do to ol' Double J!

DREAM ON

The Excellence of Execution? The best there is, was and ever will be? Get a clue, Bret Hart, and join us here in the real world!

HEARTBREAK HOTEL

Where else does Shawn Michaels find himself on Saturday nights but right there down on the end of ol' Lonely Street?

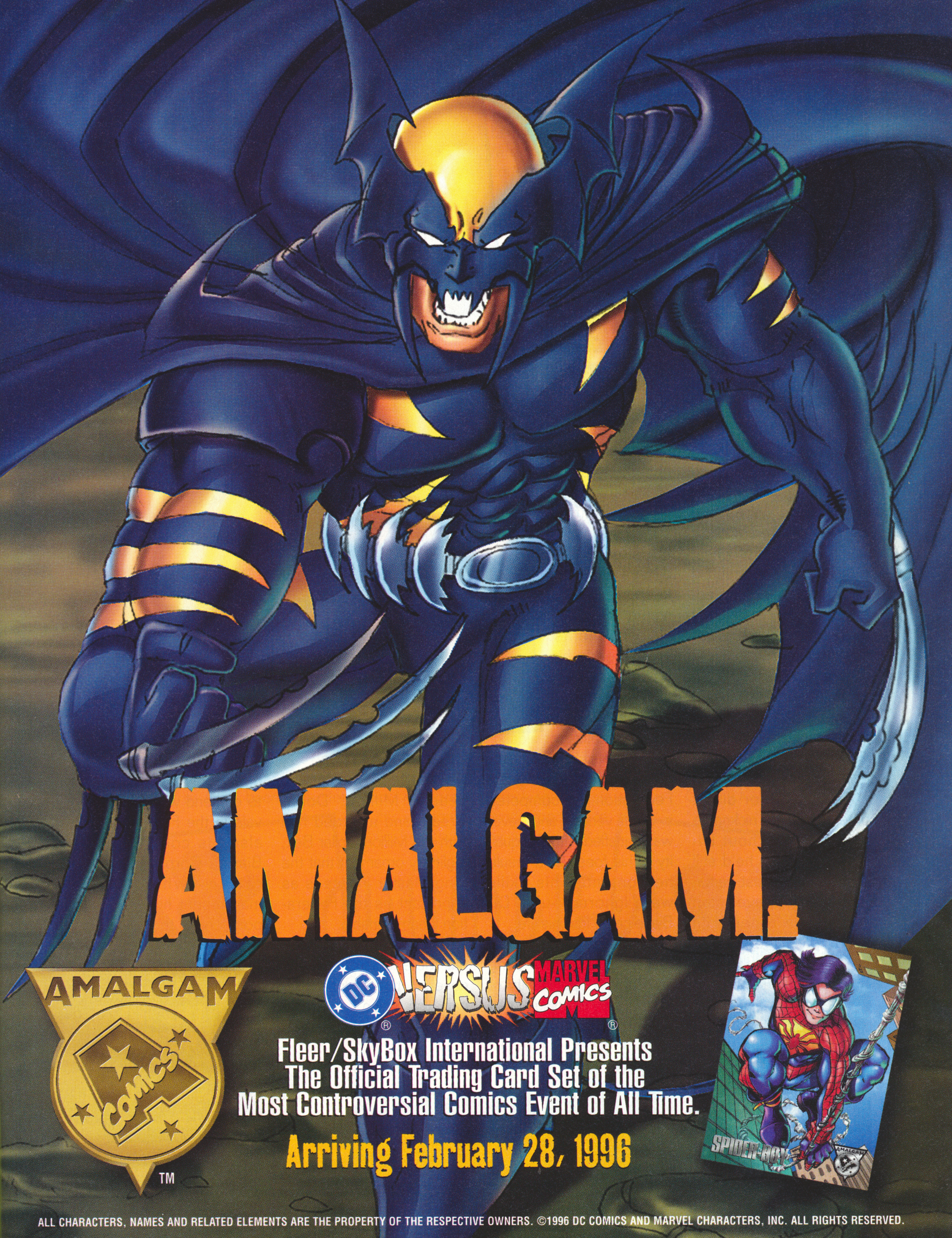
MY GENERATION

This song refers to none other than yours truly! The New Generation? I don't think so! The World Wrestling Federation is more like MY Generation! And that's the Double J Generation!

GREATER THAN GREAT

The original title cut on my new CD just about says it all! No matter which way you slice it—you can even use one of those Ginsuz, for all that matters—when it comes right down to it, ol' Double J Jeff Jarrett, that's J E DOUBLE-F J A DOUBLE-R E DOUBLE-T, is simply the best!

Ain't I GREAT? *No, I'm Greater Than GREAT!*



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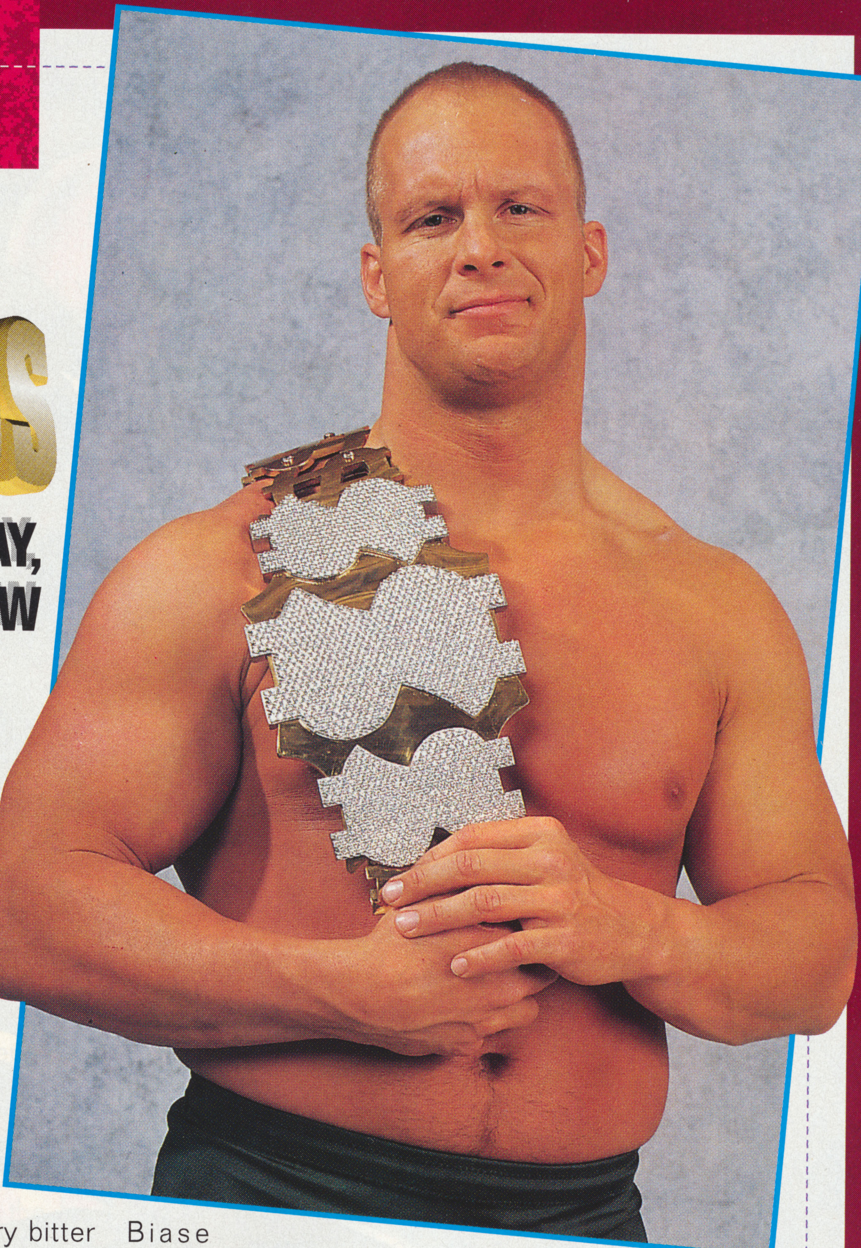
Rookies to LEGENDS

HEROES OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW



THE RING MASTER

Million Dollar Man Ted DiBiase had an impact on the World Wrestling Federation unlike any other man in the sport of kings: buying up titles, corrupting officials and punishing adversaries with a variation of the sleeper called the Million Dollar Dream. Now DiBiase has passed on his legacy to the Ring Master, a gladiator that he insists represents every ideal the Million Dollar Man holds close to his heart.

This gladiator didn't come across his nickname by chance. Without DiBiase's backing, he'd still be one of the most versatile athletes to ever step through the ropes. His repertoire includes lightning quickness, remarkable power and the ability to shift strategies as the situation dictates, keeping one step ahead of his opponents. Then there's his attitude. Anyone who ever meets the Ring Master rapidly realizes that this is a very bitter man. Before entering the Federation, he competed in other venues and never was satisfied with the quality of his foes. As a result, he contends, his skills were ignored—until DiBiase came into his life.

The Million Dollar Man not only gave the Ring Master the opportunity of a lifetime by bringing him to the Federation, but DiBiase also taught his protegé the deadly Million Dollar Dream and awarded him with the Million Dollar Belt, a glittery ornament that the Ring Master insists is as important as the Federation Championship.

Finally, the Ring Master has the attention he's long coveted, but new visibility can also mean new problems. Not only does he now have to contend with his ring rivals in the Federation but also his cohorts in DiBiase's Corporation—who may resent his position as the manager's pet.

Superstar:
THE RING MASTER
Height: 6' 2"
Weight: 252 lbs.
Hometown:
Seasonal Residences

THAT'S ENTERTAIN MAT

Exclusive Reviews By Federation Superstars

JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER'S MOVIE REVIEW

Rather than Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon starring in this movie, it really should have been Gorilla Monsoon and Howard Finkel! I mean, have you ever in your life seen two *GRUMPIER OLD MEN*?!

Let's start with the old. Like Matthau, Gorilla's face looks as if it's been through a food dehydrator—a few times!!! The guy has so many wrinkles in his face that he could hold a three-day rain! And, what's with that huge canyon he's got between his teeth? Not even Evel Knievel could jump across that baby! Maybe someone should tell him that the Letterman look has been out for years?! And, what about his love life you ask? Well, in *Grumpier Old Men*, Matthau bags that bag Sophia Loren. Now, I don't want to say anything to upset ol' Sophia. I mean, in her day she was a sex symbol. BUT, also in her day, George Washington was crossing the Delaware! What ever happened to aging gracefully? Sophia's had so many face lifts that some people say that cleft in her chin used to be her belly button! The hideous truth is that the looks that Mother Nature gave her, Father Time has taken away! Which brings me to Mrs. Monsoon. It is no mystery that we rarely see this woman in public. I mean, if I were married to Gorilla, I wouldn't come out of hibernation either! The only reason she did was because she got that part in that movie—you know, she was the understudy in *CONGO*!!!

Then there's the other Grumpy Old Man, Howard Finkel. Since the New Generation ran the Fink out of town, he's never been the same. I mean, the only time that the poor guy gets to announce these days is when he's playing Karate Fighters in his bedroom! As a matter of fact, I found out only last week why they still keep the Fink around. What? Do you think that McMahon's going to shovel all that snow himself?!

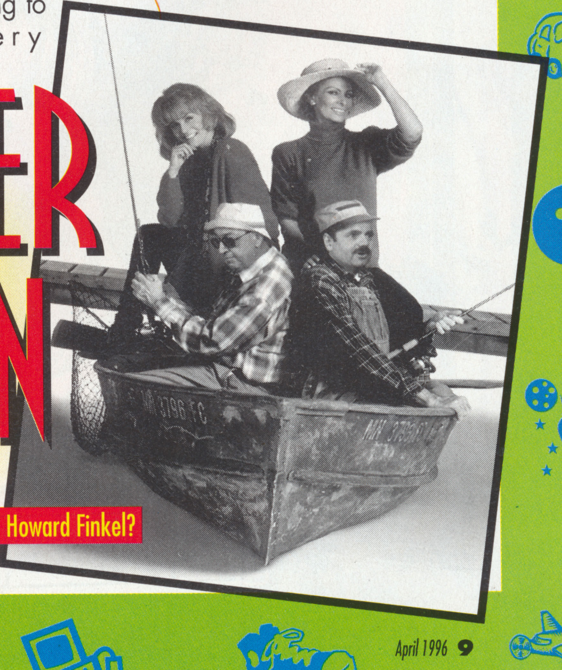
All right, enough about that. Let's get to the movie! The problem with this movie is matrimony in general. These two old farts couldn't wait to get hitched again! I think old people forget how miserable married life really is! Right away, they're reaching for their walkers and preparing to walk—very slowly, of course—down the "Isle of Doom." What? Are they nuts?! The only good thing about marriage is that you have somebody there to cook and clean for you. Aside from that—IT STINKS! Can you imagine having to care about somebody else's feelings—FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?! Just how miserable is that?

If you want proof of just how rotten married life is, then look at Stu and Helen. The only reason they stopped arguing is because—they can't hear each other anymore! GOD, I KILL MYSELF! WF

GRUMPIER OLD MEN

STARRING

Jack Lemmon & Walter Matthau *or* Gorilla Monsoon & Howard Finkel?



TALES FROM THE TURNBUCKLE

All You Need To Know

TOP 5 REASONS WHY HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY REFUSES TO DO THE TALK SHOW CIRCUIT

1 Oprah Winfrey—Good God, I never did believe in that liposuction. It's the lazy man's out.

2 **Montel Williams—Very poor grooming skills. What man in his right mind would shave his own head?**

3 Jenny Jones—Good God, NO! She'd be all over me like one of those cheap suits that she wears!

4 **Ricki Lake—No. She's still a heifer. Those tents she wears loosely don't fool me!**

5 Jay Leno—I don't think there would be enough room in the television studio for me—and his chin. Good God!

THAT'S A WRAP! GOLDUST GETS THE LAST LAUGH!

PROD. Goldust
ROLL 2
SCENE 10
TAKE 1
DIRECTOR MARLENA
CAMERA
DATE
DAY NITE INT EXT
FILTER MOS

As only screen legends do, Goldust pulled it off! In what may have been an Academy Award performance, the bizarre Goldust shocked Razor Ramon and the world when he captured the Intercontinental Title at January's Royal Rumble. For weeks leading up to the Rumble, Goldust drove Razor "over the edge" by insinuating he might want something more from him than his golden belt.

While many found Goldust's statements and gestures toward Razor appalling and "extremely" offensive, others—including yours truly—saw right through his performance. You see, from the start Goldust's outlandish behavior was all an act. That became evident when, at the Rumble, he showed up ringside with a vivacious vixen known only as Marlena. The next day on Raw, Marlena was explained to the world as Goldust's "personal director."

"You see," said the Golden One, "all the world is a stage, and I'm the greatest actor on it! Directed by Marlena, Razor and all his so-called fans got so caught up in my celluloid fantasy they didn't know what was reality and what was an imitation of life. Now all those people who complained about me can all 'Say Goodbye to the Bad Guy'—*Scarface* 1983."

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

WWF

RAW

RAW! RAW! RAW! RAW! RAW!

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION PREMIERE ISSUE ON NEWSSTANDS

EVERYWHERE APRIL 15!

WARNING: THIS MAGAZINE CONTAINS NOTHING BUT HIGH-RISK, NAIL-BITING, OFF-THE-TOP-ROPE, UNCENSORED MAYHEM! IT IS ONLY RECOMMENDED FOR THE SERIOUS WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION FAN! MAY PROVE TO BE FAR TOO MUCH FOR THE LIGHTER-WEIGHT FAN, PREGNANT WOMEN AND THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE!

• •

WHAT? THE FREE-FOR-ALL IS FREE!

Due to the overwhelming response of the first-ever Free-For-All, which kicked off the 1996 Royal Rumble, the Prevue Channel recently announced that it will continue the exciting new tradition of a FREE half-hour pre-game show before each—and every—pay-per-view event! That's right! In this day and age, there is SOMETHING that is still free! The Free-For-All is designed to rev you up and start your engines for the pay-per-view extravaganza that immediately follows. The Free-For-All will give you last-minute updated details of the pay-per-view event and live interviews, a sneak peak at future pay-per-views and—yes—even live matches!

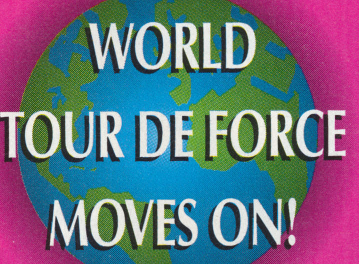
Remember, you don't have to order the pay-per-view to get the Free-For-All! It is FREE, I tell ya! FREE! And only available on the Prevue Channel! Call your local cable company for further details!

PREVUE CHANNEL

quote of the month

"YOU LIKE ME! YOU REALLY LIKE ME!"

Goldust, stealing a page from Sally Field after he captured the Federation Intercontinental Title from Razor Ramon at the Royal Rumble.



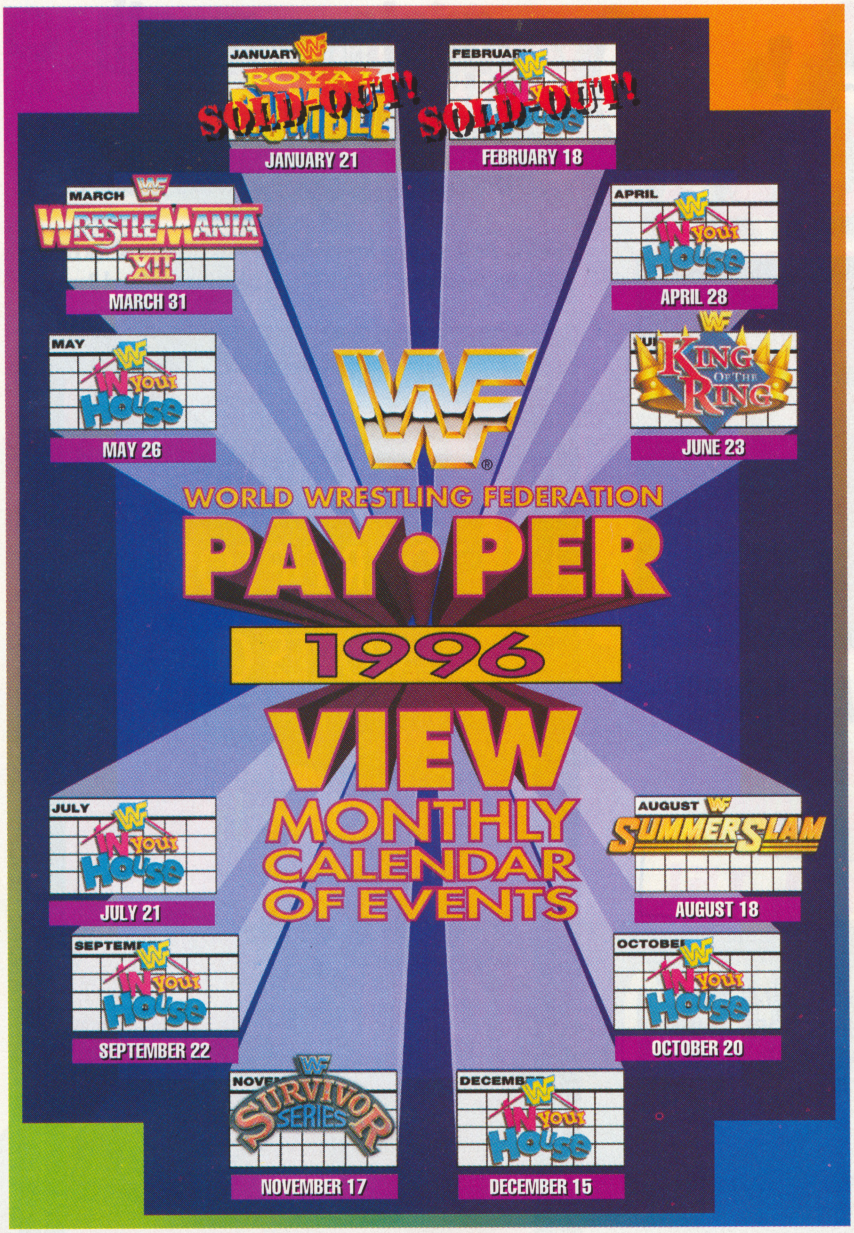
WORLD TOUR DE FORCE MOVES ON!

March

15TH–Hartford, CT
16TH–Quebec City, CN
17TH–New York, NY
18TH–Tampa, FL
31ST–Anaheim, CA (WMXII)

April

1ST–San Bernardino, CA (MNR)
2ND–San Diego, CA (SS)
10TH–Kassel, GER
11TH–Bonn, GER
12TH–Frankfurt, GER
13TH–Dusseldorf, GER
14TH–Bielefeld, GER
15TH–Oldenberg, GER
16TH–Hamburg, GER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ROYAL RUMBLE
SOLD-OUT!
JANUARY 21
FEBRUARY
IN YOUR HOUSE
SOLD-OUT!
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MARCH
WRESTLEMANIA XII
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OCTOBER
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OCTOBER 20
NOVEMBER
SURVIVOR SERIES
NOVEMBER 17
DECEMBER
IN YOUR HOUSE
DECEMBER 15

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2 **For satellite dish reception, via the larger C-Band dishes, call:**

PRIME TIME 24
1-800-989-7526

3 **For direct satellite reception, via the smaller KU-Band dishes, call:**

DIRECT TV
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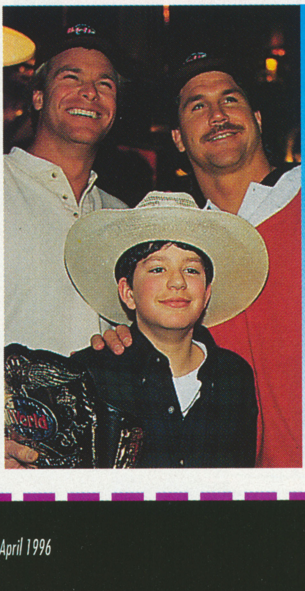
1) All events are on Sunday at 7pm ET. 2) Replays for all in Your House events at 9pm ET. 3) Replays for all five other events are at 10pm ET. 4) Encores for all five other events are the Tuesday following the event. The times of the encores are 8pm and 11pm ET.



DINNERTIME AT HIGH NOON! FANS BIDS TO CHOW DOWN WITH GUNNS

Recently, the Federation was honored to take part in the Fifth Annual Sports and Entertainment Fantasy Auction sponsored by United Cerebral Palsy of New York City. New Yorker Joey Jurist opened up the wallet and let the bucks fly en route to bagging the bodyslammin' Federation SUPER package! This sports-entertainment fan's dream consisted of tickets and an exclusive "behind the scenes" pass to the Madison Square Garden January 26 show, the opportunity to be a guest manager for one of the Federation superstars and a VIP dinner with a Federation superstar.

Well, Mark Prat, an 11-year-old also from New York and a member of Jurist's party, will not be forgetting January 26 anytime soon! Mark not only met a host of Federation superstars at Madison Square Garden, but he also had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to manage none other than Ahmed Johnson! That was, of course, AFTER he had dinner with the Smoking Gunns at the Hard Rock Cafe! Oh, by the way, among Jurist's group was also Jerry Levine—you know, the chairman of the board of Revlon! Hey, do you think Mr. Levine had some makeup tips for Goldust?!

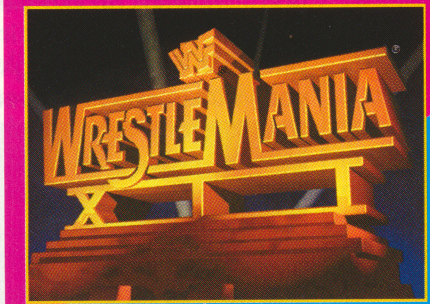
HINT! HINT! HINT! HINT! HINT!

If you want to advance in the bodyslammin' World Wrestling Federation Superstar Game. . . store this clue somewhere in your cranium!!!

WHEN YOU GET TO THE BADLANDS...BE PREPARED TO SADDLE UP.

(To play the World Wrestling Federation Superstar Game, just call 1-900-737-4WWF and choose option No. 3. The call is $1.49 per minute and children 18 years of age or under must have their parent's permission.)

WRESTLEMANIA XII SPECIAL OFFER!!



Order WrestleMania XII on Pay-Per-View and be one of the first 5,000 people to mail in your cable system billing statement showing proof of purchase to receive a free coupon for $10 off the purchase of WrestleMania: The Arcade Game. All respondents will also be eligible for a trip for two aboard the World Wrestling Federation Wrestle Vessel set to sail for a four-day, three-night cruise July 12-15 from Miami.

To receive the $10 off coupon by return mail, you need to order WrestleMania XII Pay-Per-View Event between now and March 31. Mail your original cable television system bill indicating the WrestleMania XII purchase, along with your name, address, city, state, zip code and telephone number handprinted on a separate 3″ x 5″ piece of paper to:

WRESTLEMANIA XII: THE ARCADE GAME COUPON OFFER
P.O. BOX 1079 • GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55745-1079

No photocopies of bills will be accepted. Coupons are good on SNES, Genesis, SonyPlaystation, Sega Saturn, and PC-DOS versions of WrestleMania: The Arcade Game. Limit one coupon per household and mailing address. Group or organization coupon requests will not be acknowledged and are not eligible. Offer good in US and Canada only. Void where prohibited or restricted. Offer expires June 1, 1996, and is limited to the first 5,000 qualified coupon requests. Coupon requests must be postmarked no later than June 4 and received no later than June 15. Not responsible for lost, illegible, misdirected or incomplete coupon requests. Other restrictions apply. See the *World Wrestling Federation America Online* site for more details.

RETRACTION

In the February issue of *World Wrestling Federation Magazine*, I stated that World Wrestling Federation legend King Kong Bundy had decided to hang up the wrestling boots to pursue his acting career. Well, after hearing from the Walking Condominium shortly after the magazine came out—I take that back.

In a rather "loud" voice, Bundy called me and said, "Retired? The Great Bundy will NEVER retire from the squared circle. Even though my acting career is reaching new heights every day, I can STILL avalanche any one of those geeks that you've got over there in that New Generation! And that includes you, you pencil-pushing, fact-twisting imbecile!"

SORRY, MR. BUNDY

YOU DON'T SAY

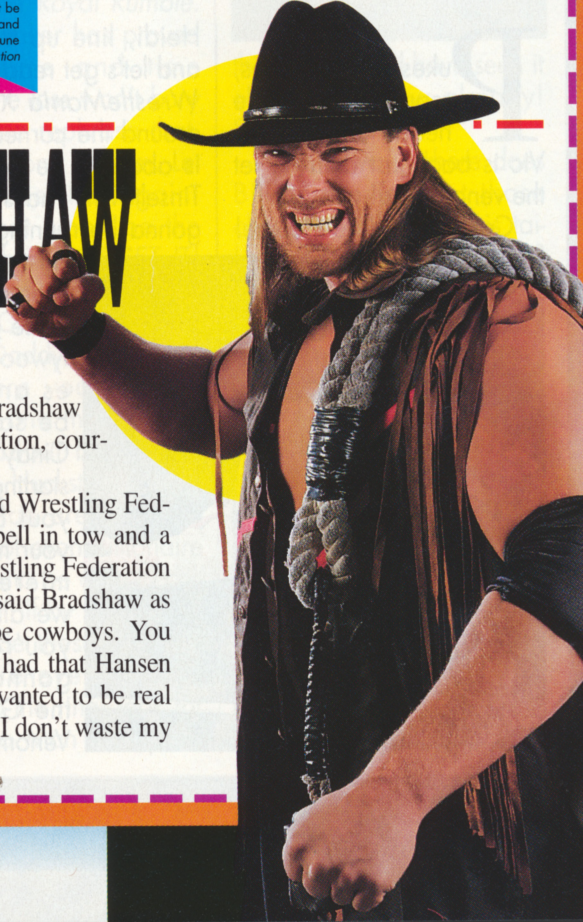
Believe it—or not—Duke "The Dumpster" Droese takes great pride in being called "The Garbage Man of a Thousand Voices"! Sir Duke can imitate a host of wrestling voices from past to present. His best? In this editor's opinion, none other than Vince McMahon Jr.!

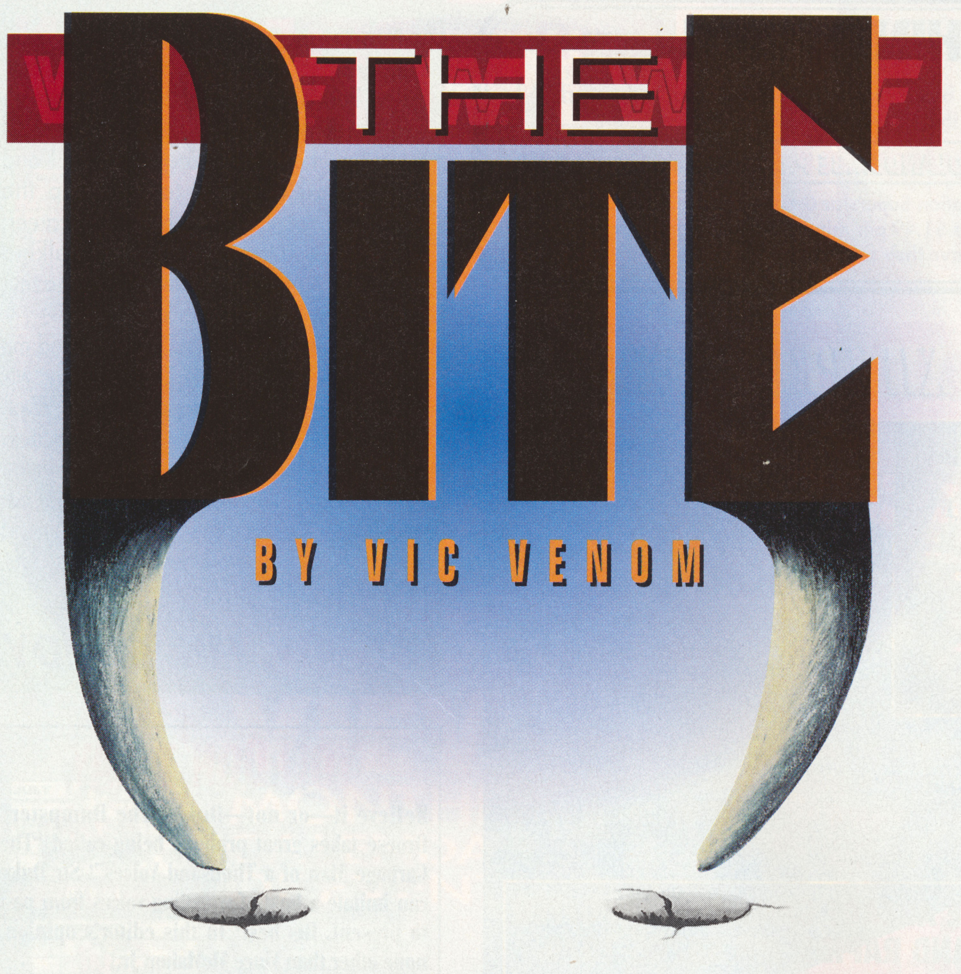
JUSTIN "HAWK" BRADSHAW

HE AIN'T JUST NO LITTLE DOGIE!

Straight from the heart of the Lone Star State of Texas, Justin "Hawk" Bradshaw is looking to immediately make a mark on the World Wrestling Federation, courtesy of his blazin' brass brandin' iron!

Under the tutelage of the crafty Zebekiah, Bradshaw brings to the World Wrestling Federation an attitude the size of the state from which he comes. With cowbell in tow and a jaw full of chaw, Bradshaw hopes to show the superstars in the World Wrestling Federation what the term "cowboy" really means! "I've seen them all come and go," said Bradshaw as he spit a wad of "tobacca" to the ground. "They were all claimin' to be cowboys. You know, the real deal. There is them there Smokin' Gunns, years ago you had that Hansen fella, then it was those skinny, snifflin', raily Black Jacks. All of them wanted to be real cowboys, but they weren't nothin' like Justin 'Hawk' Bradshaw! You see, I don't waste my time ropin' no steers; I get my kicks out of ropin' 300-pound rasslers!"



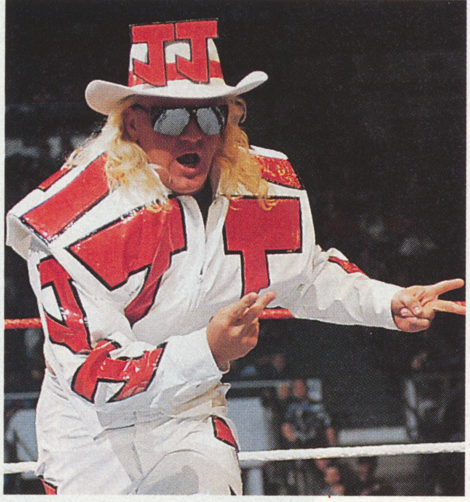


THE BITE

BY VIC VENOM

Pukes and pukettes, rear your ugly little heads 'cause Uncle Vic is back just dyin' to let the venom flow!

California, here I come! Heidi, line up the babes, and let's get ready to party. *WrestleMania XII* is right around the corner, and Vic is about to be let loose on Tinseltown! That's right, I'm gonna be running rampant all through the streets! None of those glitzy Hollywood actresses are gonna be safe! And, Cindy baby, I'm starting off with you! But unlike your movie premiere—which we all forgot—you're never gonna forget the GREAT Vic Venom!

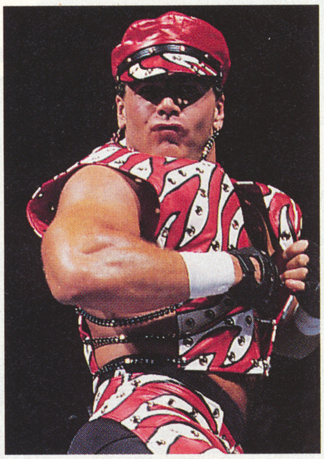


I'm gonna show you what a "real" man is! You see, darling, that Dolly Lama—or whatever his name is—bows to me! Just like you will, sweet cheeks! Anyway, back to business—for now!

First of all, let's praise the guy who killed the Fan Festival this year. I think his name is Bob Collins, V.P. of something or other. He's some nut who runs around Titan Tower in a smoking jacket every Friday. What's wrong with that, you ask? The guy doesn't even smoke, for CRYIN' OUT LOUD!!! He might as well just be wearing his stinkin' BATHROBE! Now, while all of you morons are writing complaint letters to ol' Bob at—TITAN TOWER, 1241 EAST MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 3857, STAMFORD, CT 06902—I'll be personally praising the genius! Heck, I may even buy him a pair of pajamas. Or maybe even that PIPE! Why? It's simple. I won't have to deal with you losers! You know who you are! You were at *WrestleMania X* and *WMXI* in DROVES! You even brought your stinkin' kids. I never saw so many ugly people in one place before! I thought it was a John Merrick convention (get a clue, people—Merrick was the Elephant Man)! Why do I always have to explain everything to you people in parentheses? What are you, an audience full of Alicia Silverstones? Her IQ doesn't even add up to a low-scoring hockey game! Thank God she's hot! I mean, let's face it, her career wasn't exactly built on her brain OR her talent! We all know why we went to see *Clueless*—TWICE!

See, I got sidetracked again. That's because that's the way the mind of a genius works! Oh yes, the Fan Festival. That's right, all those ugly, toothless lowlifes waiting in line for a Bob Holly autograph and beggin' for FREE stuff! It was appalling! And what in the name of Venom are you going to do with a Bob Holly autograph? Sell it? To whom? A lobotomy patient (see, here I go again with the parentheses. A lobotomy patient is someone who has had his brain removed—you all should be familiar with that)!

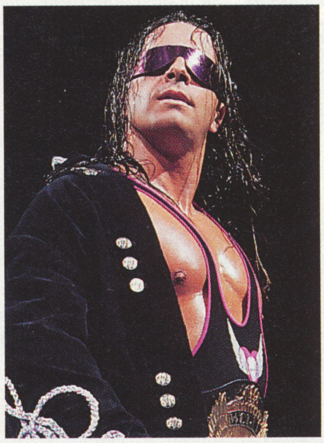
Enough about you worthless stiffs already, let's talk about *Mania*! (Even though at press time February's *In Your House* has not yet happened, my gut tells me that the Concussion Kid will SOMEHOW find a way to defeat Owen Hart, while the Drip Man will SOMEHOW find a way to escape the cage with his life—AND his belt! If Vic is on the money—as he usually is—then this is what I see at *WrestleMania XII*!)

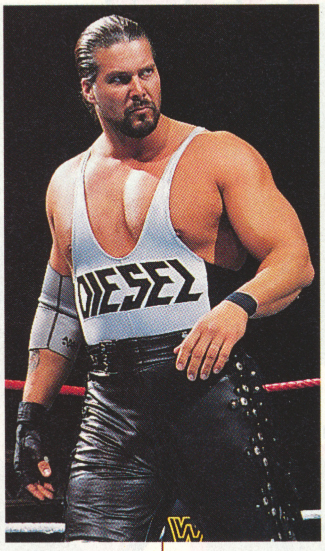


SHAWN MICHAELS vs. BRET HART

World Wrestling Federation Title Match.

You may think he's cute. You make think he's sexy. Personally, I know he's a punk, BUT Shawn Michaels is your next World Wrestling Federation Champion. It's his time—plain and simple. He's climbed the ladder, and now he's knock, knock, knockin' on the Hit Man's door. There is only one key element that separates these two in this evenly scaled contest—and that's seven years. At the ripe old age of 30, Shawn will be able to outlast the Hit Man, thus capturing his first World Wrestling Federation Title. HAVE no doubt about it, it will be a great match, but in the end it will be that ever-so-annoying music that we'll all be suffering through! By the way, contrary to existing reports, it was nine CUB SCOUTS who put Michaels in a Syracuse hospital—not nine thugs!





BIG DADDY COOL DIESEL vs. THE UNDERTAKER

The Taker and the Diesel. My oh my, even the Great Vic Venom never thought he'd see this one! This is gonna be the biggest war since Burt and Loni! Never before have two behemoths been so evenly matched. Height, weight, homeliness—you could toss a coin on this one OR bet all your money (what do you people make—about $100 per week?) on what ol' Vic is about to tell you! Even though he has the personality of a pencil, Big Daddy Cool is your winner here. Again with the whys?!! One simple reason—he can't afford to lose! Coming off that *Survivor Series* defeat by Bret Hart, Diesel needs to win this war in order to still be considered a top contender. A loss to Hart AND the Undertaker in only a five-month span may cost him what it took him three years to build: his reputation. For the first time you can say—EVERYTHING is on the line for BDC! The Taker, on the other hand, has a little more breathing room—-that's IF he does breathe. Even Bret Hart will tell you that the Grim Reaper had him all but defeated before Diesel interfered at the *Royal Rumble*. The Undertaker has proved himself time and time again. One loss won't bury him. Let me rephrase that. One loss won't kill him. Let me rephrase that again! One defeat won't be the death of him. FORGET IT! You catch my drift! The Undertaker CAN LIVE with a loss; Big Daddy Cool can't!

So there you have it! Oh, and one more thing. Talking about black and white, the Huckster and the Nacho Man are soooooo old that not even Billionaire Ted is gonna be able to colorize them! If by some modern miracle these two old-timers are even able to make it to the ring, look for the Nacho Man to capture the pinfall. Even though his tank is running close to E, the Huckster's ran out a long time ago! Not even the big boot to the face and the mighty legdrop are gonna be able to save him this time! Sorry, yellow and red, this columnist just ain't buyin' it any more!

And, one more thing—whatever you do—DO NOT call Scheme Gene to get his prediction on this match. Even though he'll swear he'll give it to you—HE WON'T UNTIL THE MATCH IS OVER! And by then you would have seen it on pay-per-view already! Sorry, Gene!

By the way, where does Billionaire Ted get those cheap suits? Who's his tailor—SAL VATIONARMY? So long, SUCKERS!

To hear Vic Venom and get his unique insight, call him every Thursday thru Sunday on the World Wrestling Federation Superstars Line at 1 900-737-4WWF, and choose option number 4—Beyond the Pages of the World Wrestling Federation Magazine. (Call is $1.49 per minute. You must be 18 years of age or have your parent's permission before you call.)

JIM JOHNSTON: THE WORLD
MEL

When Jim Johnston meets someone who's never been to a World Wrestling Federation event, he thinks of the Undertaker's dramatic walk to the ring before every match. "It's something you have to witness live," Johnston recommends. "Watching it on TV just doesn't do it justice. If you haven't seen the lights go down or you haven't heard the thunderous organ resonate as the Undertaker slowly makes his way down the aisle, you are really missing something."

What Johnston neglects to mention is his own role in the experience. For over a decade, he's been composing entrance music for the superstars of the World Wrestling Federation, along with special songs like *With My Baby Tonight* for Double J Jeff Jarrett, *I'll Be Your Hero*, about the emotional highs and lows of the squared circle, and *Tell Me a Lie*, a tribute to the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels.

Not bad for a guy from the small town of Pocahontas, Arkansas, whose closest boyhood encounter with the titans of the mat wars was from the other side of the television screen.

Back then, music seemed to be everywhere in Jim Johnston's life. Country tunes were always playing on the radio, and Jim's grandmother had been the church organist for generations. As family folklore went, she'd once been given the opportunity to move to New York and study with the Metropolitan Opera. Instead, she chose to remain in little Pocahontas with her husband, owner of the local pharmacy, Johnston Drugs.

Still, she encouraged her grandson to aim high. "From my grandmother, I learned about believing that you could accomplish something, even when other people told you it was a long shot," recalls Johnston, 42. "Even though this is a tough field, with a lot of competition, I always knew that I could make a career for myself in music."

It's the same type of drive that propels many of the Federation's standouts to the top of their game. And, like the masters of the mat, Johnston began pursuing his passion at a young age, beginning piano lessons at 5. For a brief period, he tired of the practicing and quit. Then, in 1964, the Beatles invaded America. To a young boy listening to the radio in Arkansas, the songs were like a divine signal, calling the youngster to his destiny.

"Suddenly, I wanted a guitar as soon as possible," Johnston says. "For Christmas that year, Santa brought me a Kent electric gui-

WRESTLING FEDERATION'S

ODY MAN

BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

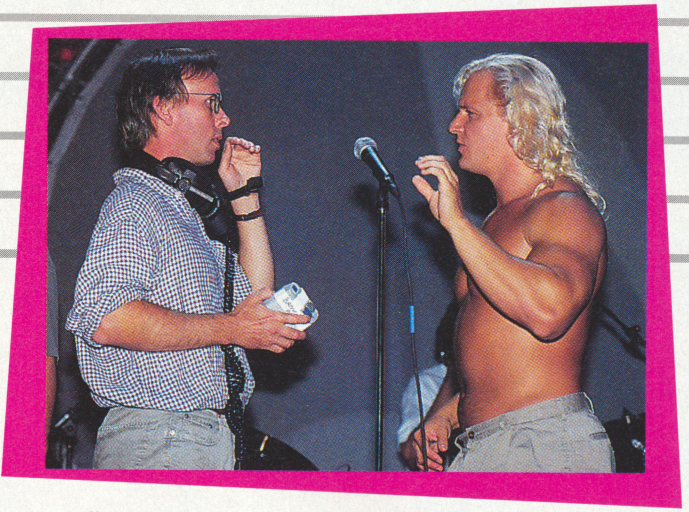
JIM JOHNSTON: THE WORLD WRES

tar. It was one of the cheapest guitars on the market then, and if anyone could find one, it would probably be worth less now—but I literally practiced 'til my fingers bled."

He also resumed his piano playing, placing his record player on top of the instrument, then slowing down the discs and scrutinizing every part of a song—from rhythm guitar to lead guitar to bass to piano to drums. "It was a great little school I created for myself," he says. "I learned composition, arranging, how different instruments go together."

In time, Jim was playing everything except the violin and similar string instruments. In high school—after the family had relocated to Greenwich, Connecticut—he was lead guitarist in a number of bands and tenor in the school choir. At Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, he spent every night in the campus recording studio, studying the art of making a record.

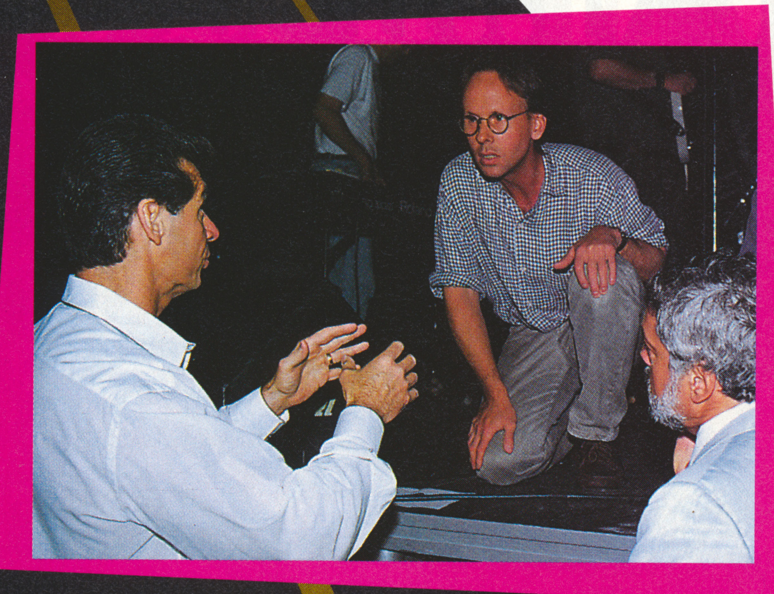
A career in music never comes easy. After college, Jim paid the bills by working as a carpenter. Then, one day, in the middle of pounding nails, he had a revelation. "This is not what I should be doing," he told himself. "Tomorrow, when I wake up, I'm going to be a composer." His days were spent banging on doors and ringing the phones of production companies and recording studios, offering to record entire scores for free, just to gain a reputation. "I never cared about the money," he says. "If you're in the arts to try to make money, you're doomed. You have to be in it for some unknown spiritual connection. In my case, I just had to write music."



One night—after he'd written for MTV, HBO, Cinemax and numerous other high-profile clients— he settled in for a sushi dinner at Kagetsu, a Japanese restaurant in Greenwich. As the meal progressed, he began discussing art and music with another customer, Brian Penry, who was art director at the World Wrestling Federation at the time. Brian was working on a video of Federation highlights and needed a composer who could evoke the right emotions in the viewers. Johnston entered the wrestling fraternity.

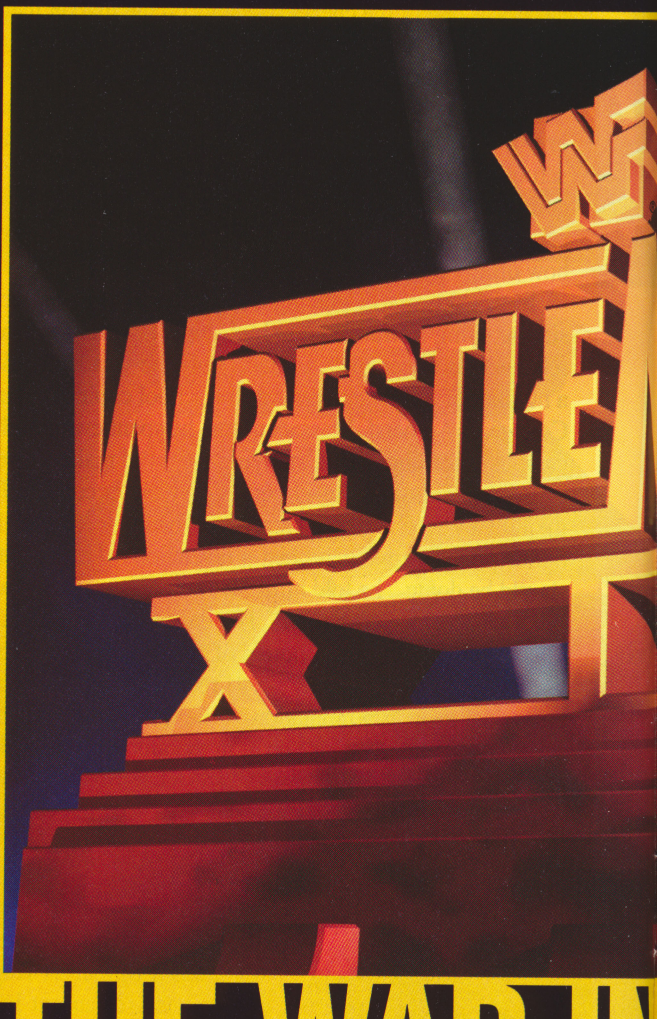
Like many of his peers, Jim had watched the Federation on television, following the sagas of competitors like Pedro Morales, Gorilla Monsoon and Killer Kowalski. However, this was a new era, the "rock 'n' wrestling connection." Federation head Vince McMahon had realized his vision of blending sports and entertainment together. At matches, Johnston would try to get as close to ringside as possible. Never in his life had he seen anything quite so exciting. "I challenge any tough guy from the world of boxing or the NFL to get in there and do what the phenomenal athletes in the Federation do—without pads or gloves," Jim says.

From his vantage point, Jim has had plenty to inspire him. He came up with Diesel's entrance music by simply observing Big Daddy Cool and feeding off his energy. "The sound isn't gaudy or flamboyant," Johnston points out. "Neither is Diesel. It's tough and direct, coming on strong with no apologies. Like, 'Here I am, all 7 feet of me.'" Razor Ramon, Jim continues, "is the quintessential cool guy. He comes out dripping machismo. And his music punctuates that—with a Latin overtone. He's such an infectious, likable guy that it's easy to compose for him."



When Johnston reflects back on his tenure in the sport of kings, many highlights come to mind: the Bam Bam Bigelow-Lawrence Taylor battle at WrestleMania XI, the Ultimate Warrior's WrestleMania VI title triumph, the brutal Shawn Michaels-Razor Ramon ladder matches. But his most consistent joy has been working alongside the man whose vision has transformed the Federation into an international obsession. "Vince McMahon has been an enormous inspiration to me," Johnston says. "He has this energy and this wonderful gift of motivating people to accomplish more than they ever knew they could. That includes the wrestlers, and that also includes me." WF

FEDERATION CHAMPION



THE WAR IN

Bret "Hit Man" Hart

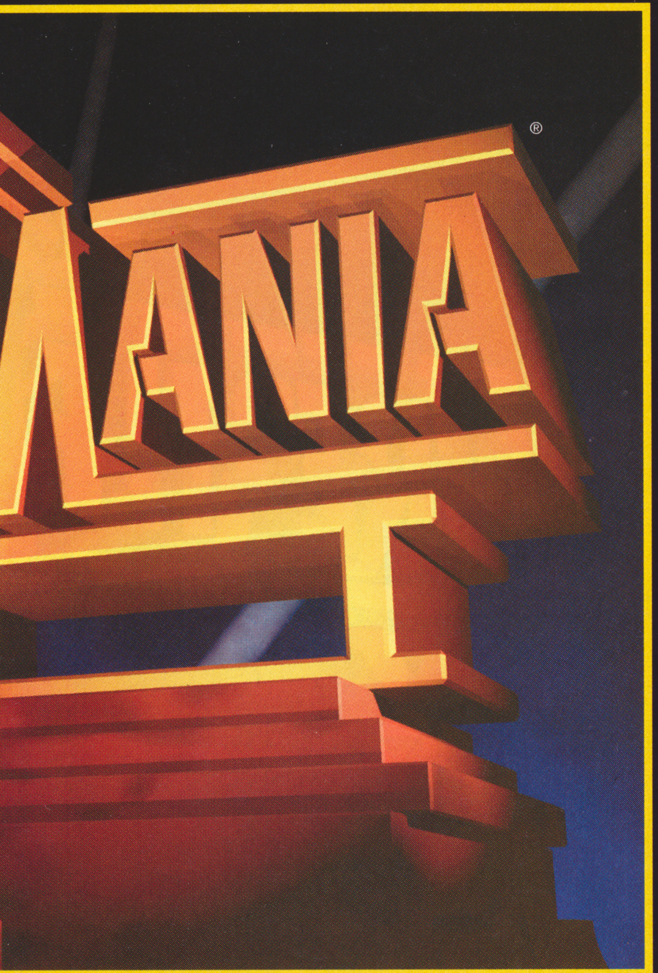
BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

Shawn Michaels and Bret "Hit Man" Hart are two men who are used to fighting the odds. Each of them has had to counter claims that he wasn't big enough or bad enough to go the distance. And both have made careers out of proving the oddsmakers wrong. If all goes as planned for these two gladiators, they will face off in the main event at *WrestleMania XII*—in a battle of comeback kids.

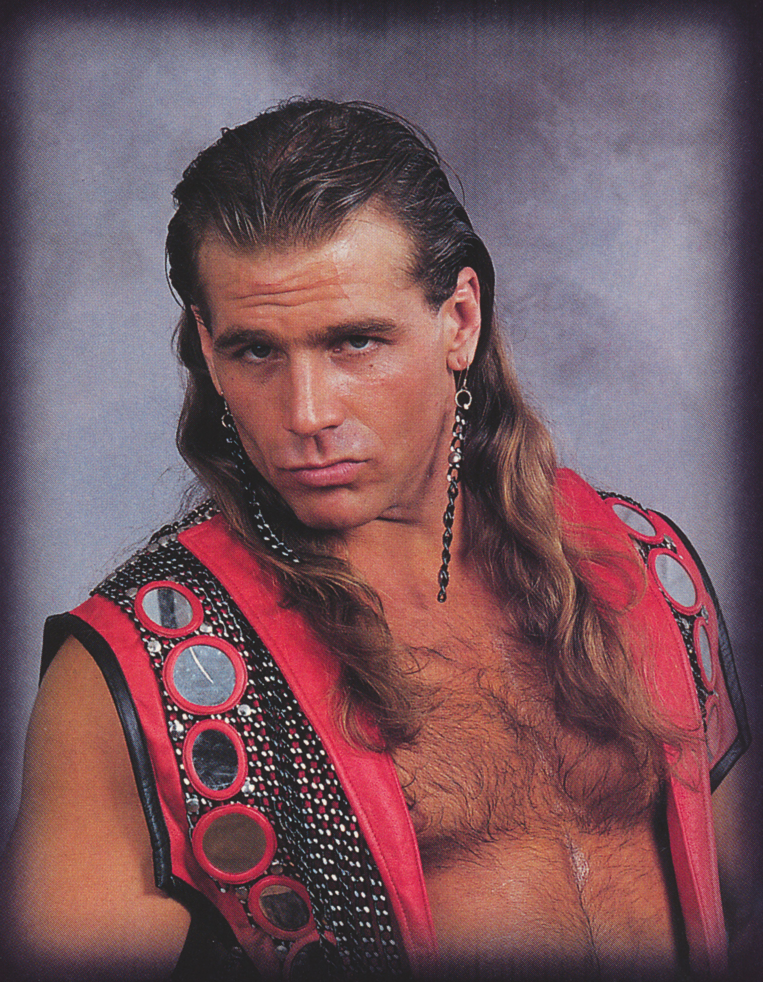
As of press time, Bret "Hit Man" Hart was World Wrestling Federation Champion, and Shawn Michaels—who ignored medical advice to lay low from life in the squared circle—had earned the spot as No. 1 contender by winning the *Royal Rumble*.

Michaels, who has nicknamed his growing legion of followers "The Kliq," emerged as the victor of the *Rumble* by eliminating his friend Diesel in the final seconds. "Nothing personal," Shawn explained later. "I just wanted that shot at the title."

It's a wish he's harbored since he first decided to devote his life to professional wrestling at age 12. Even the injuries sustained in a reported pounding by



THE POND!



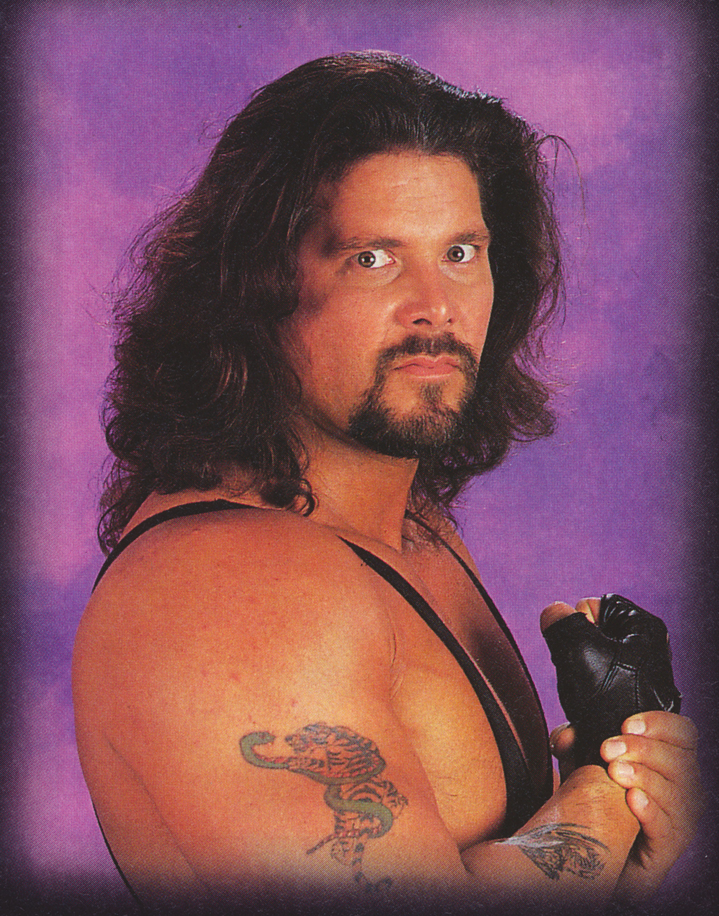
vs Shawn Michaels

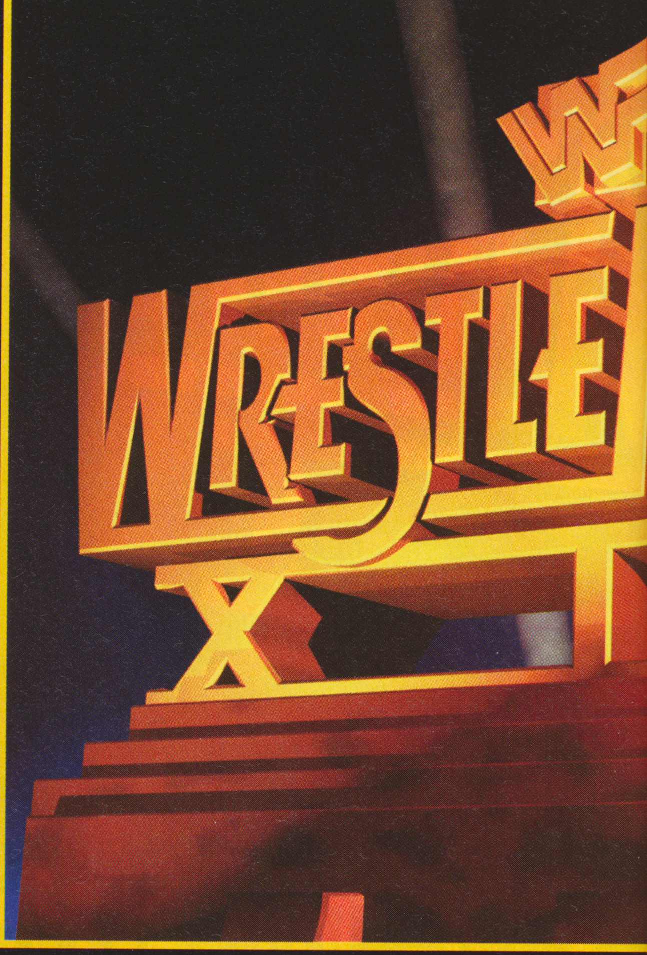
a mob of goons outside an upstate New York nightclub could not sidetrack his dream. As he puts it, "The World Wrestling Federation Title is my destiny."

However, Bret "Hit Man" Hart was raised to be a champion and has captured the World Wrestling Federation Belt on three separate occasions. Back in 1992, during his first title reign, he defended the belt against Michaels at the *Survivor Series*. Bret left the ring triumphantly then—and expects to do so once again at *WrestleMania XII*.

Of course, the Hit Man is now 37 years old and may be worn down by his grueling battles with Diesel, the Undertaker and British Bulldog. On the other hand, there remains some debate over whether Shawn has fully recovered from his assault—or, more specifically, recuperated enough to catapult himself to the top of the World Wrestling Federation.

Each man must first survive the *In Your House* extravaganza in February. Shawn has put up his No. 1 contender status against Owen Hart, and Bret is defending the championship belt against Diesel. Both Michaels and Hit Man are as determined to vanquish their *In Your House* rivals as they are to topple each other at *WrestleMania XII*.



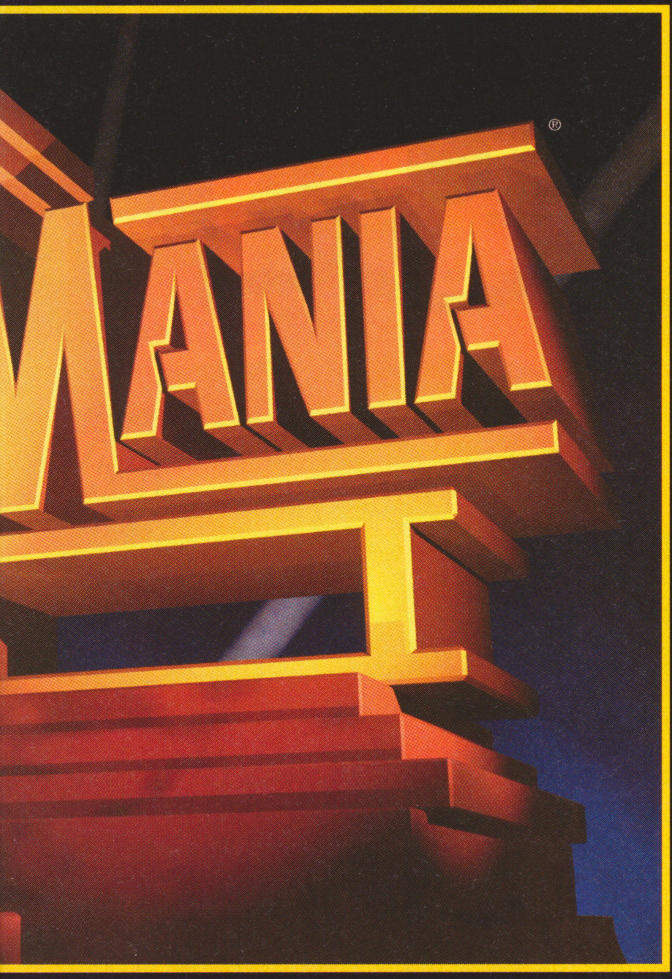


Diesel vs Th

Diesel—whether or not he manages to snare the World Wrestling Federation Championship Belt from Bret "Hit Man" Hart at February's *In Your House*—will focus his ire and unleash his "bad to the bone" attitude on the Undertaker, a man who has been on a collision course with Big Daddy Cool for the past several months.

The cold and callous feelings started brewing at *In Your House* in December, when Gorilla Monsoon—the World Wrestling Federation interim president at the time—declared that the Undertaker would receive a shot at Bret Hart's World Wrestling Federation Championship Belt at the *Royal Rumble*. The news infuriated the recently deposed champion Diesel, who confronted the Undertaker just as the show was ending, vowing to bury the Man from the Dark Side six feet under.

After the 30-man elimination match at the *Royal Rumble*, Diesel was heading back to the dressing room when he crossed paths with the Undertaker, who was proceeding toward the ring for his confrontation with the Hit Man. The two gladiators exchanged unpleasantries, then blows before World



e Undertaker

Wrestling Federation officials pried them apart.

As the night wore on, so did the rancor between these dangerous athletes. In the championship match, Undertaker appeared to be en route to capturing the title after punishing Bret "Hit Man" Hart with the Tombstone, his devastating finishing maneuver. The World Wrestling Federation's Grim Reaper covered Hart as the referee lifted his hand and counted...once...then twice... but before the arbiter could slap the mat a third time, Big Daddy Cool grabbed him by the leg and yanked him away from the combatants, earning the Hit Man a disqualification—and the rage of the Undertaker.

This encounter is bound to be far more than just a battle between two powerful, ruthless warriors who are both committed to establishing dominance over one another. The Diesel-Undertaker rivalry has turned into a deadly feud. And when men as ominous as these two former Federation Champions are feeling so incensed, the outcome is likely to be lethal. Once and for all, the question will finally be answered: Is the World Wrestling Federation indeed running on Diesel Power or will Big Daddy Cool quietly Rest in Peace?

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION'S

Video Game REVIEW

GAME TITLE: TOY STORY

LEVELS: 19

MACHINE: GENESIS

PLAYERS: 1

MANUFACTURER: DISNEY INTERACTIVE

MEGS: 32

THEME: ADVENTURE

EST. PRICE: $49-$65

T-BOY'S SCORE

GAME PLAY	6
GRAPHICS	7
MUSIC/SOUND	6
OVERALL SCORE ▶▶▶	6

SIDESCROLL'S SCORE

GAME PLAY	8
GRAPHICS	6
MUSIC/SOUND	4
OVERALL SCORE ▶▶▶	6

Sidescroll & T-Boy Illustrations by: Howard M. Colbert

SYSTEM TYPE

GENESIS

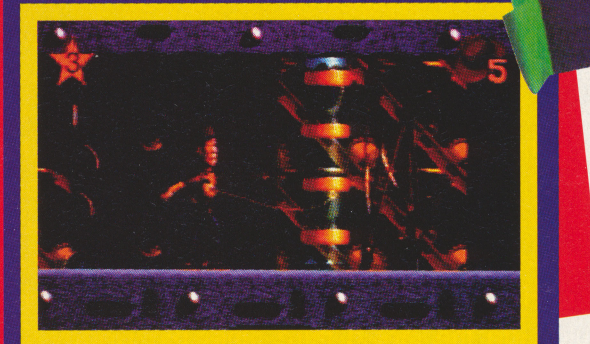
DISNEY'S TOY STORY

KIDS TO ADULTS K-A AGES 6+

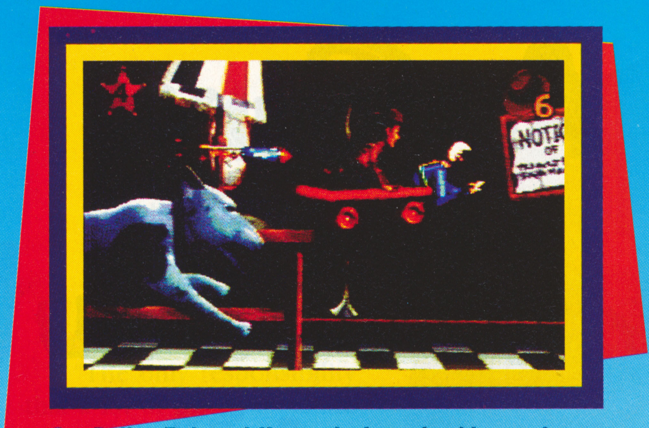
BY T-BOY & SIDESCROLL

This month we take a look at a video game taken directly from one of the biggest movies of all time, *Toy Story.* If you haven't seen the movie, then where in the world have you been? Did your parents lock you away in a closet because you wouldn't eat your vegetables or something? Well, Disney once again produced a blockbuster, and Disney Interactive tried to follow in the footsteps of the first computer-generated motion picture. Did they succeed? It all depends on how you look at it.

Toy Story (the video game) is about Woody, a pull-string cowboy, and Buzz Lightyear, a super-powered, karate-chopping, laser-blasting, space-hero action-figure, and a whole bunch of other toys that come to life. Woody is Andy's favorite toy and sits in the coveted place of honor for all toys—on Andy's bed. Woody's pretty confident that he'll be the toy of choice for a long time to come, until Buzz Lightyear shows up. Andy won't give up his spot on the Sealy Posturepedic that easily though. He's got a plan to send Buzz to live with the dust-bunnies behind the dresser. With the help of R.C. Car, Woody sends Buzz hurtling through the air. Hey, who left that window open? Now Woody has the other toys in an all-out



Timing your jumps inside the Claw Machine is critical while trying to save Buzz. This is where you'll want to follow Mom's advice: Don't play with money!



Go, Roller Bob, go! Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to ride Roller Bob to freedom before Scud eats you for dinner.

frenzy, so he decides to save his would-be successor from the outside world of those batteryless carbon units, the dreaded human beings.

Toy Story, the video game, features much larger characters than most games, plenty of levels to complete, decent sound effects and a good story line as well. Even though most levels are pretty easy to beat, there are some that will remain a challenge even after you've played it to death. It's also great to see a combination of side-scroll game play and first-person perspective. However, even though the graphics are great, it by no means matches up to the effects in the movie. This is the limitation of the 16-bit system though, which we feel will be abandoned as the 32-bit and 64-bit systems gain in popularity.

Overall, *Toy Story* was well done but didn't offer us much of a challenge. (What do you expect from two video game gods?) We were a little disappointed that the graphics weren't as awesome as the movie, but I'm sure we would be saying otherwise if it where available on the Playstation. Disney Interactive did an excellent job, considering the limitations, and we look forward to Disney taking us on other adventures to infinity... and beyond! WF

ATTENTION!
Hey, video game worshippers, are you tired of 16-bit gaming? Do you crave for 32-bit game reviews like the Sony Playstation? Then just drop us a note to the same address you send your tips to and mark it **Attn: 32-bit reviews**

TIP OF THE MONTH

Game:
Vectorman

System:
Genesis

Tip:
While playing, pause the game and hit: **C**, **A**, **L**eft, **L**eft, **A**, **C**, **A**, **B**, (Call A Cab). You will then turn into an arrow which will let you move all around destroying everything except the bosses.

Thanks for the tip, Riad!

Riad Sleiman
Glendale, CA

READERS' TOP TEN

SUPER NES

❶ WF Raw
❷ Donkey Kong Country
❸ Mortal Kombat II
❹ WF WrstrlMania-Arcade
❺ NBA Jam: TE
❻ Super Punch-Out
❼ Supr. St. Fghtr II-Turbo
❽ WF Royal Rumble
❾ Mortal Kombat 3
❿ Super Metroid

GENESIS

❶ WF Raw
❷ NBA Jam
❸ WF WrstrlMania-Arcade
❹ Mortal Kombat II
❺ WF Royal Rumble
❻ Mortal Kombat
❼ Sonic and Knuckles
❽ WS Baseball '95
❾ NBA Jam: TE
❿ Mortal Kombat 3

Hey, Kids! Don't forget to send in your tips and vote for your favorite game for *SUPER NES* or *GENESIS* each month. You can also write to T-Boy and Sidescroll. Send your letters with your name and address to:

World Wrestling Federation Magazine•P.O. Box 3859
Stamford, CT 06902• Attention: Video Game Review

THE CRITICS' CORNER

Sidescroll: Hey! T-Boy. What is this? Why are we reviewing this game? It's old, it's used, it's been played out, just like you!

T-Boy: Hold on to your food bag, fat man! *Toy Story* was a great movie that featured incredible computer graphics, and we wanted to let our fans know if the video game was just as good.

Sidescroll: Well, I can tell you one thing: It's not as good as I am because I keep beating it! Just like I'd be beating you if it were a two-player game!

T-Boy: Oh, I'm quaking in my cowboy boots, you Buzz wannabe!

"Just A Guy Who Cares About The Kids!"

BY VINCE RUSSO

It was the Phoenix Sun's Charles Barkley who once stated on national television, "I am not a role model." Even though millions of kids of all colors and creeds looked up to Sir Charles, he publicly stated that it "wasn't up to him to raise YOUR kids."

In this day of professional sports, you can't just pinpoint or blame Charles Barkley. In the '90s sports are big business—a well-oiled, mega-million-dollar marketing machine. Many players are just in it for one thing—and one thing only—the almighty buck. No, they won't accept the responsibility of being a role model to your child, but they sure as heck will take that $25 of your hard-earned money that you slap down on the sales counter when purchasing one of their latest T-shirts for—I might add—that same child to wear. Charles Barkley might not have the time to be a role model, but when the "Golden Arches" are shelling out the big bucks, he'll be the first one in line willing to make that Big Mac sound like filet mignon—if, of course, the money is right!

Ahmed Johnson doesn't see it that way. As a child, Ahmed lived life on the street. Since the ripe old age of 13, Ahmed has been forced to raise himself, and he'll be the first one to admit he didn't do such a great job. You see, Ahmed became involved with the gang life. As a matter of fact, he'll be the first one to tell you he was involved in drive-by shootings and other forms of violent crime. At the time, there wasn't much he could do about it. He didn't know right from wrong. There wasn't a mother figure or a father figure around. Ahmed longed for a positive role model, but nobody answered his desperate calls. He had to learn the hard way, but somehow he managed to survive!

As a World Wrestling Federation superstar, Ahmed Johnson is now in a position to answer those same cries that he so

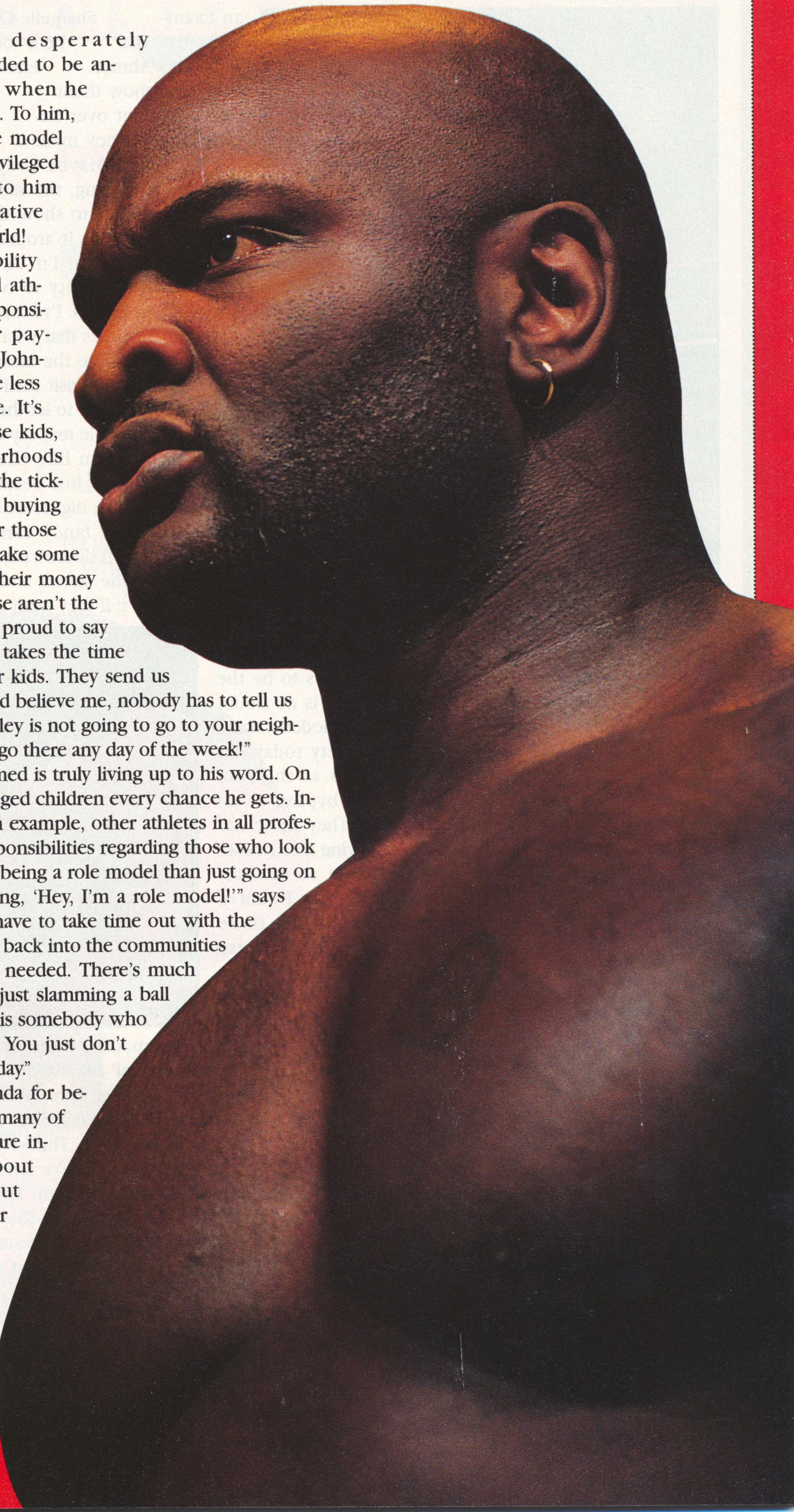
AHMED JOHNSON: NOT JUST ANOTHER ATHLETE LOOKING TO CASH IN

desperately needed to be answered when he was a child. To him, being the role model to one underprivileged kid means more to him than the most lucrative sneaker deal in the world!

"The only responsibility that a lot of professional athletes want today is the responsibility of collecting their paycheck," says a bitter Ahmed Johnson. "They couldn't really care less about the kids in the audience. It's sad because the parents of those kids, who may live in poor neighborhoods and ghettos, are the ones buying the tickets! Then, on top of that, they're buying all the high-priced merchandise for those same kids! These parents need to take some time out to think! They spend all their money on tickets and merchandise, but these aren't the guys who care about their kids! I'm proud to say that the World Wrestling Federation takes the time out to show that we care about your kids. They send us out to schools to talk to your kids, and believe me, nobody has to tell us to go—we can't wait to! Charles Barkley is not going to go to your neighborhood unless he gets paid for it! I'll go there any day of the week!"

Since entering the Federation, Ahmed is truly living up to his word. On his days off he visits with underprivileged children every chance he gets. Inside, he only hopes that by setting an example, other athletes in all professional sports will face up to their responsibilities regarding those who look up to them. "There's a little more to being a role model than just going on TV, making a lot of money and saying, 'Hey, I'm a role model!'" says Ahmed. "As a role model, athletes have to take time out with the kids. They have to put some money back into the communities and the neighborhoods where it's needed. There's much more to being a role model than just slamming a ball and catching a pass. A role model is somebody who sincerely CARES about the kids. You just don't see that in professional sports today."

Unfortunately, Ahmed's agenda for being a role model is something many of today's professional athletes are incapable of. "It's not all about what can I do for me, but rather what can I do for those who 'need' me. Being a role model in the Federation tells me that I have to set



an example for the kids," says Ahmed. "I have to show them that life is not over because maybe they made a few mistakes. Maybe they even joined a gang, the same way I did. I have to show them that they can turn it around just like I did! That's why I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to be a role model for these kids. I've told the Federation many times that what I want to do is go out where the underprivileged kids are. I want to visit their schools and talk to them. I want to let them know that just because people may say they're failures and look at them like they're failures, they're really not. Just because they didn't grow up in a nice big house or their parents don't drive big, fancy cars doesn't mean they're failures. It doesn't mean that they have to go out on the streets and sell drugs. They can still make it if they want to!"

If Ahmed Johnson does have any "regrets" about being a role model, it is simply his desire that children should look up to the people he considers to be the "real" role models—their parents. "There is no doubt that the parents should be the 'real' role models," states Ahmed. "Society today has depicted us as the role models by hyping us on television. They show athletes as having nice houses and nice cars, so naturally kids say, 'Hey, I want to be just like those guys!' These kids get this picture in their mind about role models, when in reality their parents are the 'real' role models. If the parents had never taken care of that kid, he or she wouldn't have grown up to be that superstar athlete. That's what the kids are missing! They're not going to the root of the problem! They're looking at the surface, but they're not looking underneath the surface. The surface is that if Shaquille O'Neil's parents hadn't taken care of him by teaching him good values and the right way of life, then Shaquille O'Neil wouldn't be the Shaquille O'Neil he is today! Kids need to look up to their parents a whole lot more!"

However, make no bones about it—unlike Charles Barkley, if the parents are absent from their child's life for whatever reason, Ahmed accepts with open arms the invitation to step in as that special role model. "It's very healthy to have a role model," says Ahmed. "Kids in society today seem to have minds of their own. It's much more difficult to get to a kid than it was when I was growing up. If my parents—or even my friends' parents—told me to do something, I would do it! These days kids are a lot more stubborn! A lot more independent! That's why they need somebody there who's going to be a constant reminder of what's right and what's wrong—regardless of what the price may be! But kids need to realize they shouldn't put their 'total' faith in a role model. A role model is human. He makes mistakes just like everybody else. It is good to have someone to look up to, but don't put 100 percent of your faith, your belief in that person. Ahmed Johnson is not perfect by any stretch of the imagination. I'm just a guy who cares about the kids!"

PERSONALITY PROFILE

AHMED JOHNSON

FAVORITE BAND:
TLC

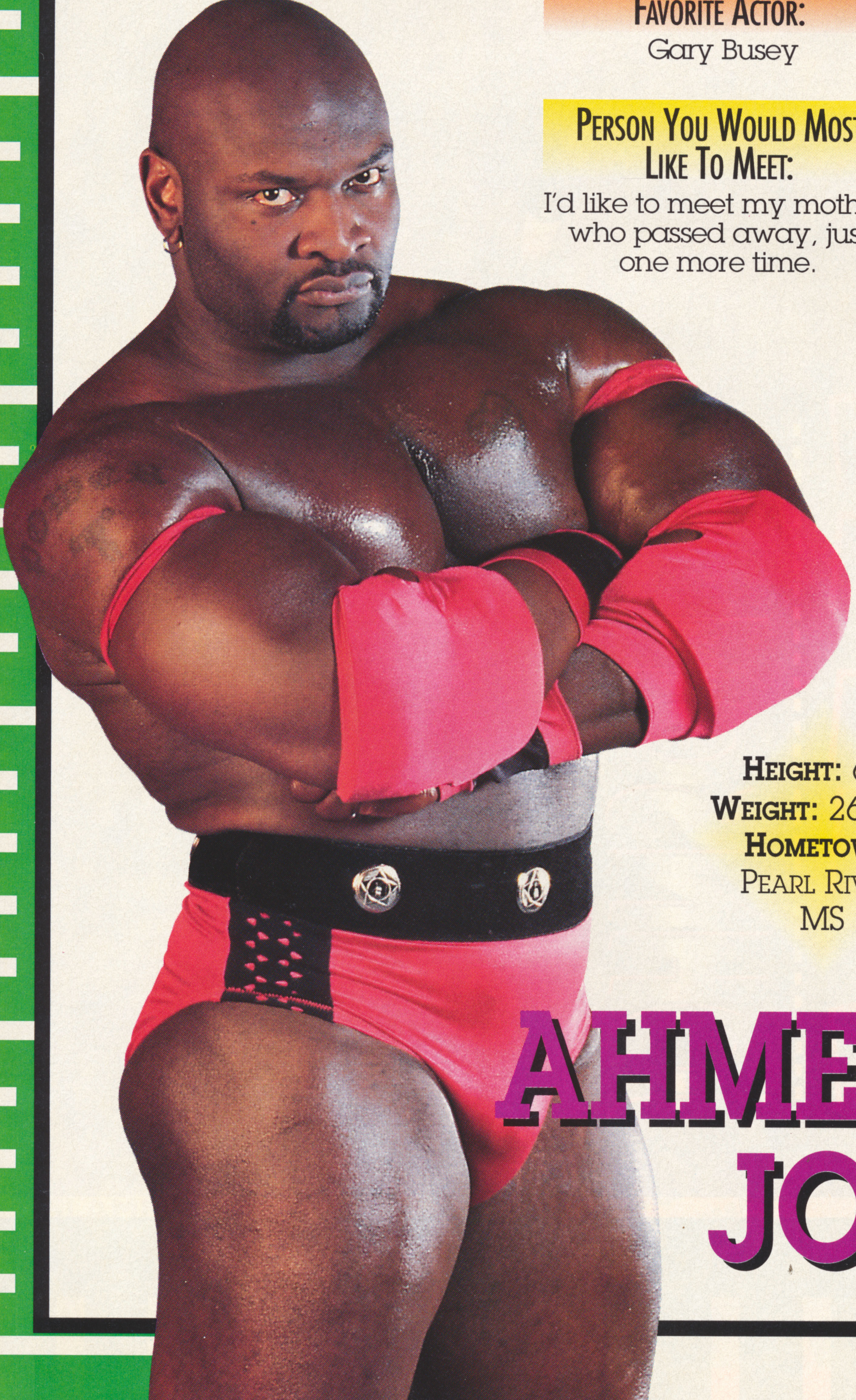
IF I COULD HAVE DONE IT DIFFERENTLY:
I would have gone about the way I grew up in a different fashion. I would have used my head more.

FAVORITE MOVIE:
Mortal Combat

BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE:
Coming to the World Wrestling Federation.

FAVORITE ACTOR:
Gary Busey

PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET:
I'd like to meet my mother, who passed away, just one more time.



HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 265 LBS.
HOMETOWN: PEARL RIVER, MS

HOBBIES:
I'm a movie fanatic, I love to read and I love to play Sega Genesis.

FAVORITE FAST FOOD:
Burger King

FAVORITE FOOD:
Ham hocks and collard greens

FAVORITE SPORT (BESIDES WRESTLING):
Football

FAVORITE ATHLETE:
Joe Montana

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED:
To believe in myself no matter what.

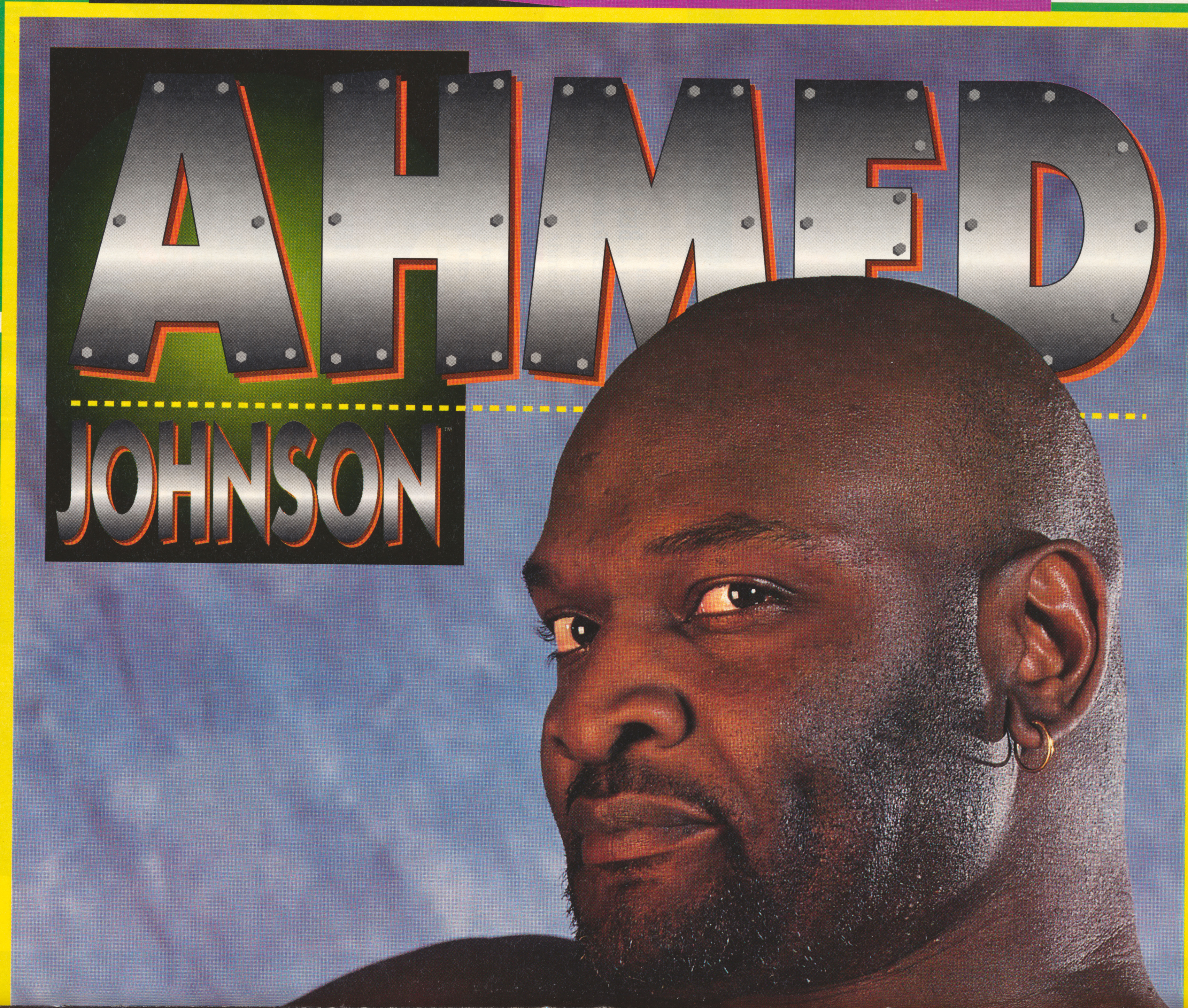
FAVORITE ACTRESS:
Gina Pickett

SECRET TALENT:
Kickboxing

FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER:
X-Men

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW:
It's Showtime at the Apollo

FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:
John Madden's NFL Football


AHMED
JOHNSON™

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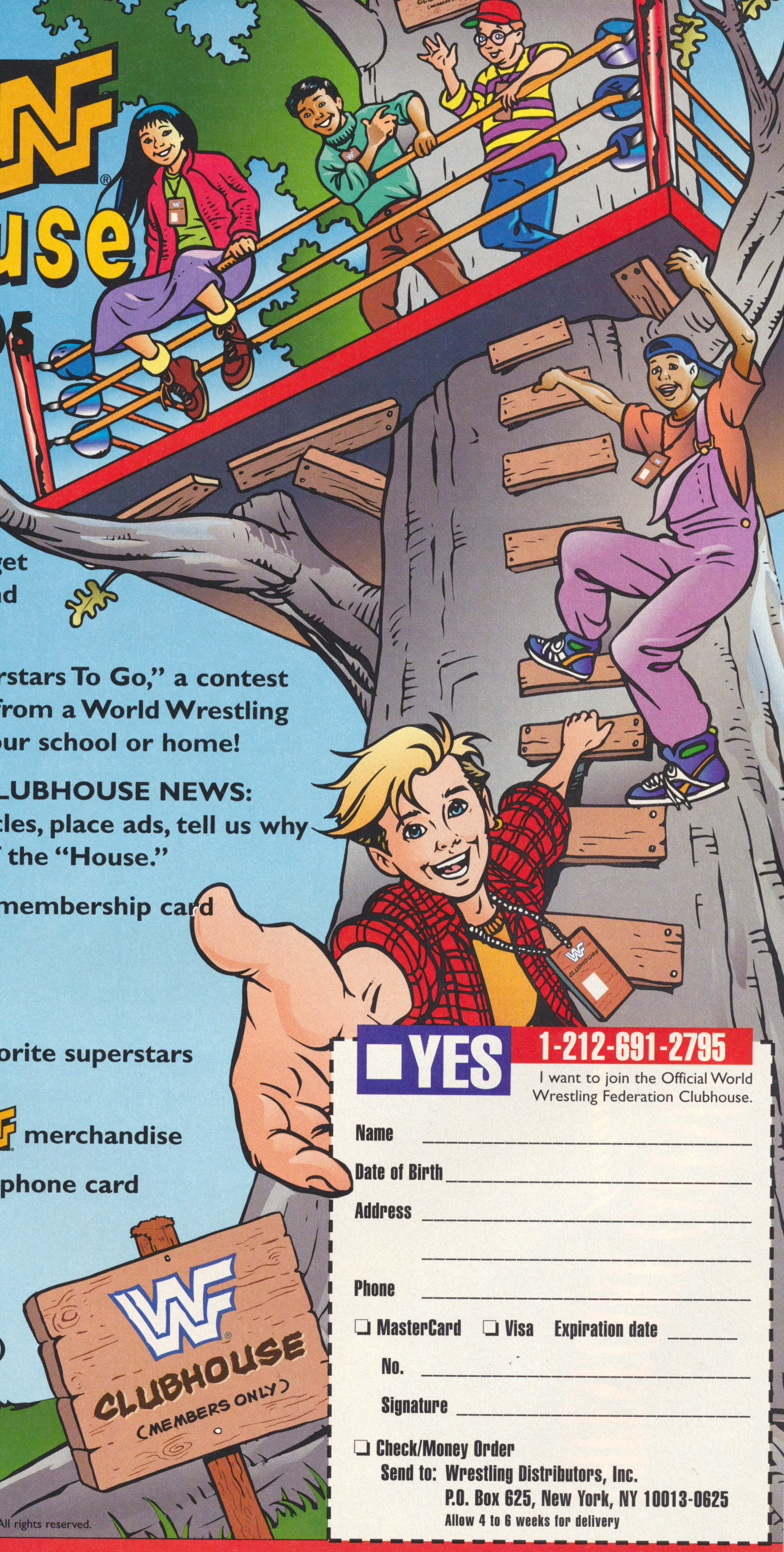

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17	18	19	20	21 Skip Of The Body Donnas' Birthday	22	23
24 Undertaker's & Barry Horowitz's Birthday WRESTLEMANIA XII ANAHEIM, CA 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

APRIL 1996

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14	15	16	17	18 BROOKLYN BRAWLER'S BIRTHDAY	19	20
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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

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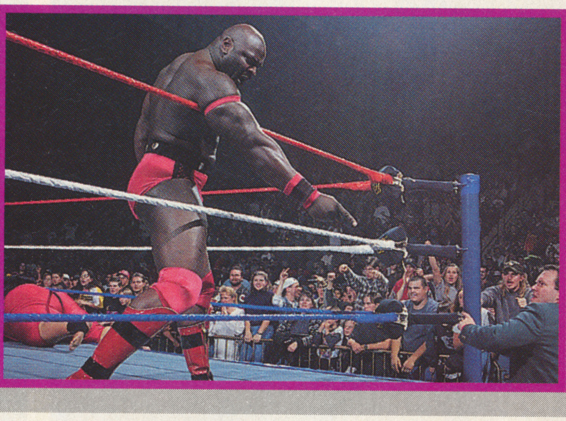
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

When Pearl River, Mississippi's Ahmed Johnson first came on the scene in the World Wrestling Federation, he let it be known—to all of those who were smart enough to listen—that he wasn't going to end his quest until he became the first African-American in Federation history to capture a singles title.

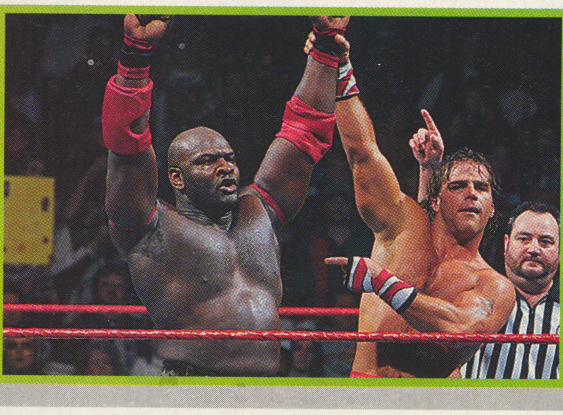
MONDAY NIGHT RAW



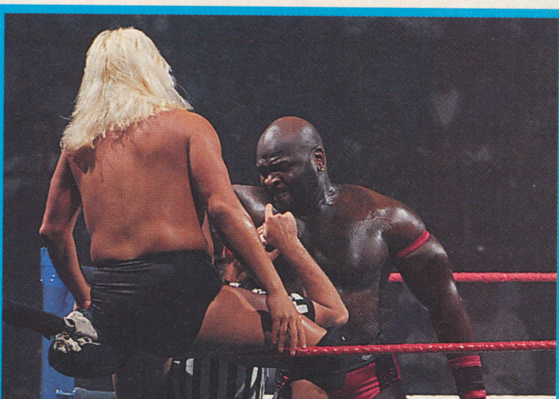
Based on those words, Ahmed wasted no time in T.C.O.B.! In only a matter of weeks following his World Wrestling Federation debut, Ahmed shocked the entire world when he bodyslammed the 641-pound Yokozuna before a national television audience watching on Monday Night Raw!

SURVIVOR SERIES 1995

Ahmed followed that mammoth incident with one that may have been of even greater proportions. At the 1995 Survivor Series, Ahmed stood side by side with the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels as one of the lone survivors in the first-ever Federation Wild Card match.



IN YOUR HOUSE (DECEMBER)



The following month at In Your House, Ahmed made short change out of Nature Boy Buddy Landell, who was filling in for the injured Dean Douglas. But Ahmed's victory celebration was cut short when he was attacked after the match by Double J Jeff Jarrett. This episode led to a showdown between the cocky cowboy and the proud gladiator at the Royal Rumble.

WARNING WARNING WARNING WARNING WARNING

This magazine contains nothing but high-risk, nail-biting, off-the-top-rope, uncensored MAYHEM! It is only recommended for the serious World Wrestling Federation fan! May prove to be far too much to handle for the lighter-weight fan, pregnant women and those who suffer from high blood pressure.

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ROYAL RUMBLE®

RESULTS

By Lou Gianfriddo

THE FIRST STEP IN TURNING ONE MAN'S DREAM INTO HIS DESTINY!

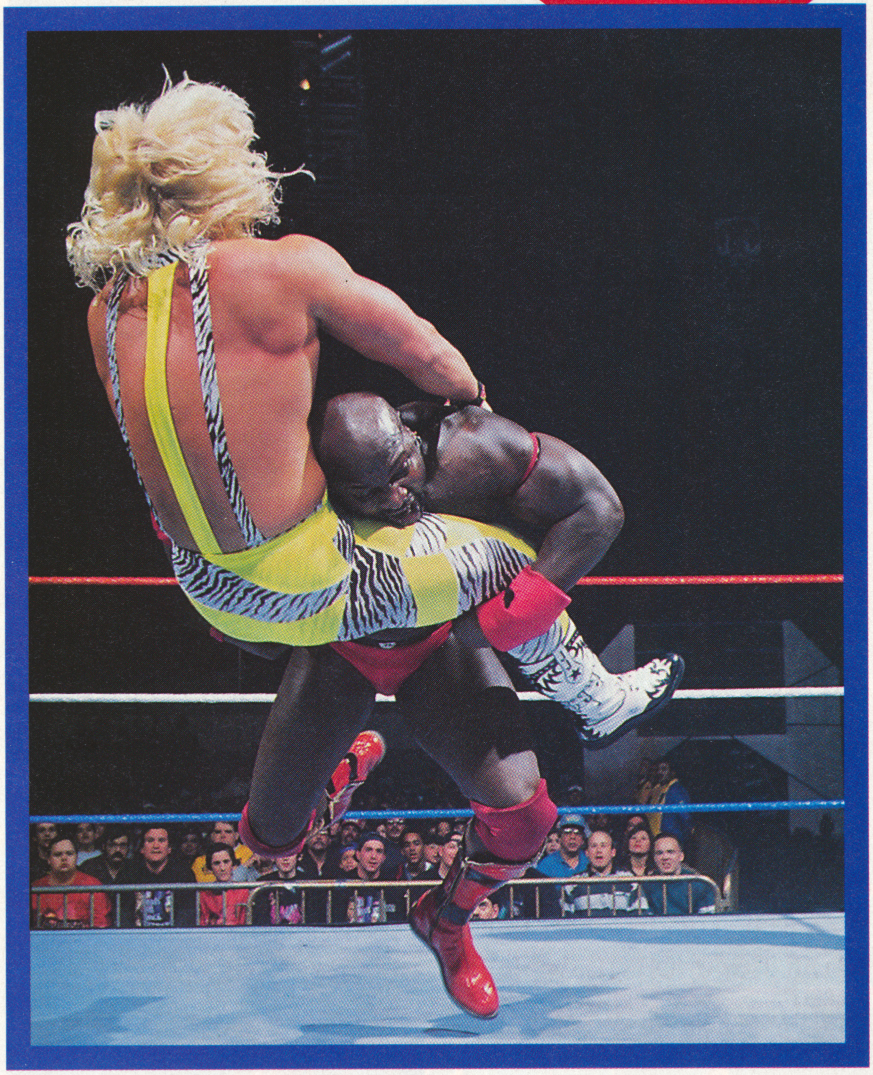
The superstars of the Federation fought for their very lives at the ninth annual *Royal Rumble*—which was broadcast on pay-per-view January 21. Almost every top superstar competed. Some won personal victories, such as Jake "The Snake" Roberts, who after a three-year absence came back and wrestled in a way that shocked his old fans and made new fans. Others won championship gold—most notably Goldust who overcame Razor Ramon for the Intercontinental Title. The *Rumble* also marked the pay-per-view debut of Vader, a man who has retired more people than Social Security and now a man with a dream to overwhelm the Federation with his raw power. As well, the Million Dollar Man's Ring Master handled himself with such polished finesse that many thought they were observing a veteran of the Snake's caliber.

One man, however, realized the dream of a lifetime, a triumph over odds many said were insurmountable and dangerous. Shawn Michaels, whose career nearly ended late last year when he was jumped by thugs outside an upstate New York nightclub, defied his doctors and naysayers by outlasting some of the toughest superstars in the battle royal. His reward, if he remains healthy enough to experience it, is a title match against Federation Champion Bret Hart at *WrestleMania XII*, which will emanate live from the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, California, on Sunday, March 31.

On that day, the world will watch as Michaels attempts to achieve his lifelong dream while at the same time trying to survive the onslaught of battle, the results of which could—if the odds work against him—end his athletic career. Glory will only be attained if he can repeat his *Royal Rumble* performance, complete with the same intensity and desire to overcome those who dare to oppose him. He'll need all that and more to beat Bret Hart at *WrestleMania XII*.

SUNDAY ➤ JANUARY 21, 19

AHMED PLAYED THE HITS BUT DOUBLE J ENDED THE SESSION WITH A SMASH!

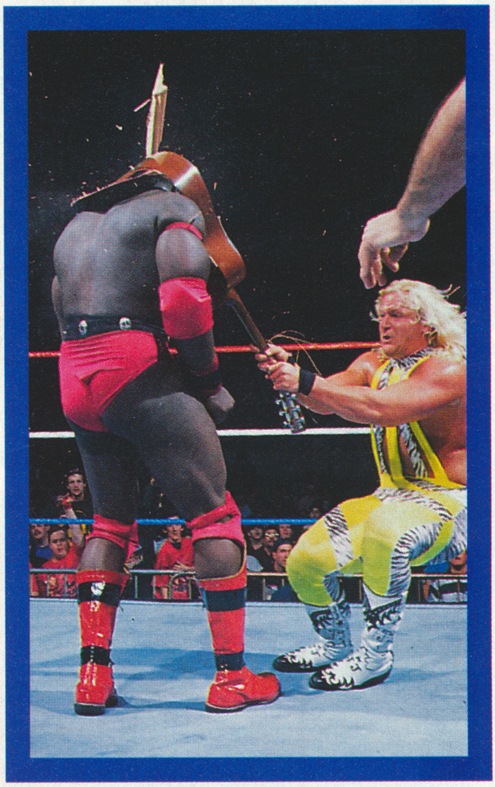


After Double J's appalling attack on Ahmed Johnson at December's *In Your House*, interim Federation President Gorilla Monsoon was quick to sign a match between the two athletes for the *Royal Rumble*.

As would be anticipated, the two warriors blasted one another. Johnson was especially upset, rocking the country singer with stinging jabs and bodyslams that were nearly impossible to watch.

Double J's temper got the best of him, though. When everything was riding against him, the self-professed "world's greatest singer and the world's greatest wrassler" mounted the top ropes and smashed his acoustic guitar over Johnson's head, earning him an instant disqualification.

JEFF JARRETT
"Ahmed Johnson heard the first verse at In Your House in December; then at the Double R Ahmed heard the second verse! I was a smashing success tonight, and I knew that I would be!"



AHMED JOHNSON
"If Double J wants to play that way—then Ahmed Johnson will play that way! This feud has just begun!"

SMOKING GUNNS VS. THE BODY DONNAS

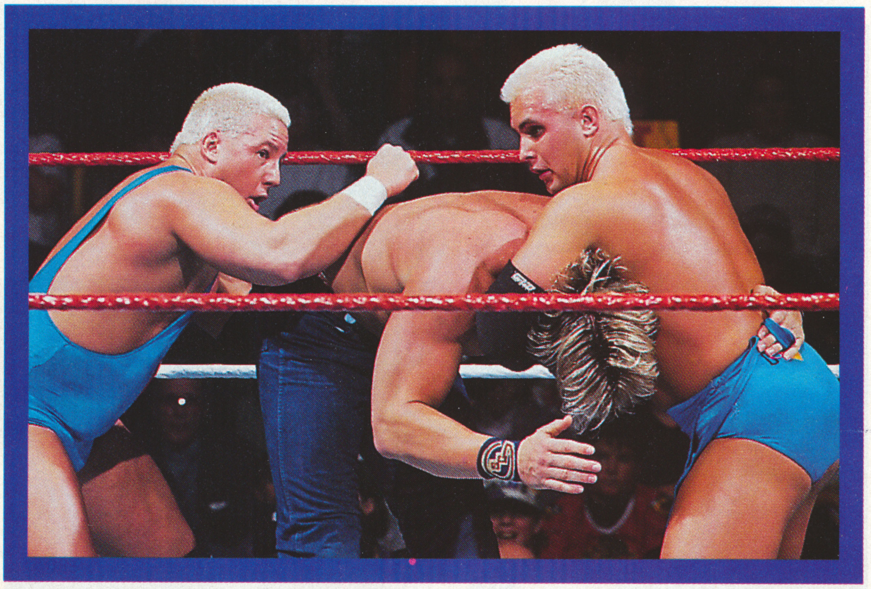
THE GUNNS ESCAPE THE FOX!

World Wrestling Federation titleholders the Smoking Gunns, Billy and Bart, defended their belts against the No. 1 ranked contenders, the Body Donnas, Skip and Zip.

This match, as many expected, was a brawl from the beginning, with both teams exchanging blows and kicks. Once their tempers settled, if they did at all, the teams both showed the wrestling world their wares, initiating and countering move after move, while the Body Donnas' manager, Sunny, did all she could to distract the referee and the champions.

SUNNY

"I am sick and tired of being cheated all the time! No matter what I do, somebody is always trying to swindle me out of a victory! I had those belts in the palm of my hand! People around here better start understanding that whatever Sunny wants, Sunny gets!"

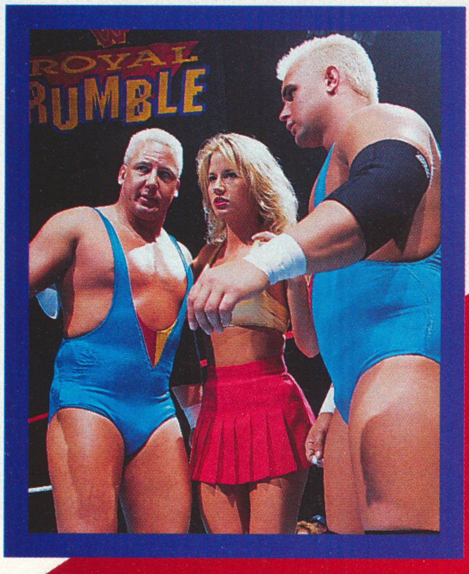


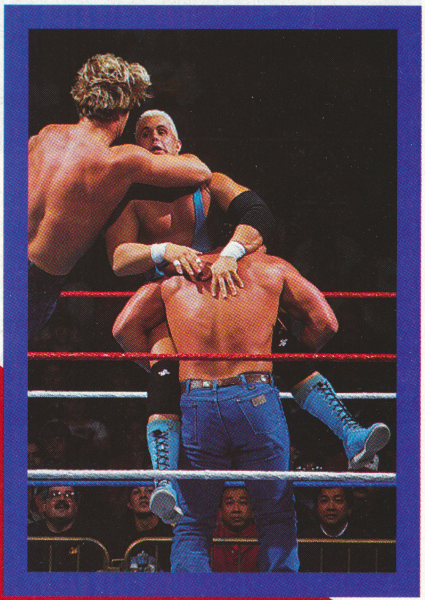
BILLY GUNN

"When I accidentally knocked Sunny off the ring apron, I really thought she was hurt! Being raised as a gentleman, the first thing I did was to go out there and make sure she was all right."

BART GUNN

"That move almost cost us the match! She was playing possum the whole time! From here on in we'll be looking for those kinds of tactics from them!"





Although the Body Donnas' methods may have succeeded in the short term, in the end the Gunns were blazing. They survived a four-way brawl and, when the Gunns' smoke had cleared, won when Bart rolled up Skip for the pinfall.

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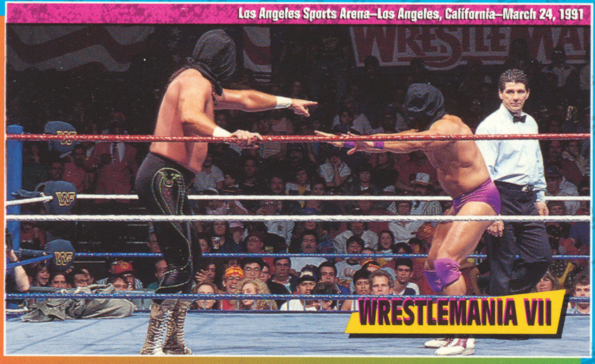
JAKE ROBERTS vs THE MODEL RICK MARTEL

1996

Los Angeles Sports Arena—Los Angeles, California—March 24, 1991



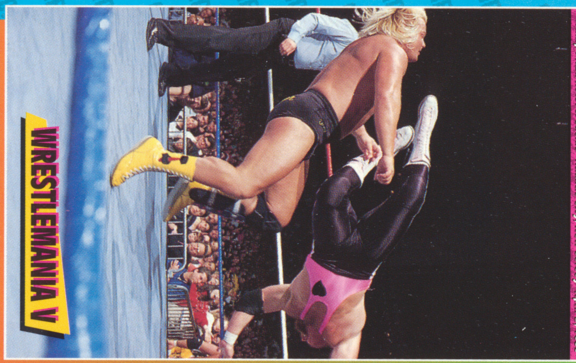
WRESTLEMANIA VII

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

HART FOUNDATION vs HONKY TONK MAN & GREG VALENTINE

1996

Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino—Atlantic City, New Jersey—April 2, 1989



WRESTLEMANIA V

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

BATTLE ROYAL

1996

Rosemont Horizon—Chicago, Illinois—April 7, 1986

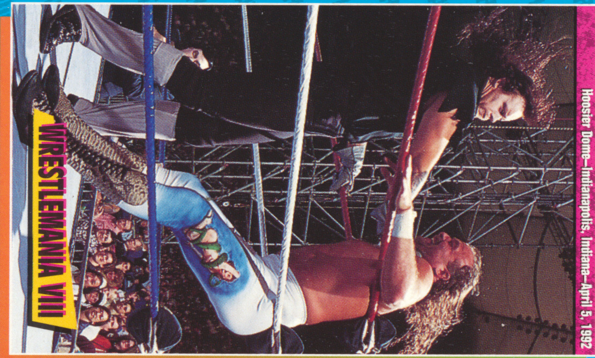
WRESTLEMANIA II

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

THE UNDERTAKER vs JAKE ROBERTS

1996

Hoosier Dome—Indianapolis, Indiana—April 5, 1992



WRESTLEMANIA VIII

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

WRESTLEMANIA

1996

The Tradition Continues!

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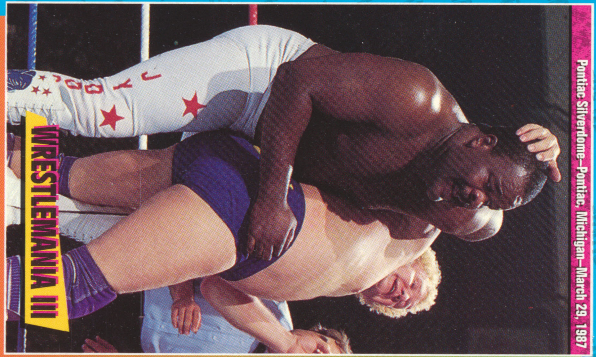
JUNK YARD DOG vs KING HARLEY RACE

1996

Pontiac Silverdome—Pontiac, Michigan—March 29, 1987



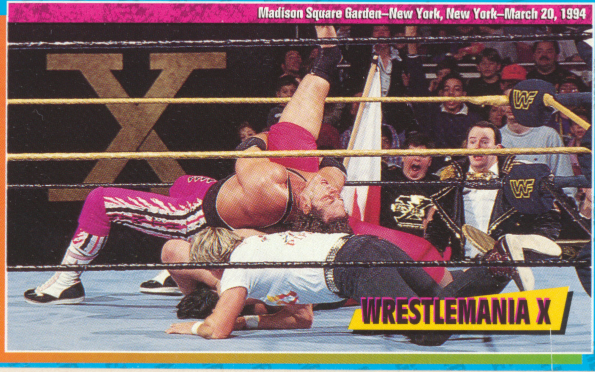
WRESTLEMANIA III

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

BRET HART vs YOKOZUNA

1996

Madison Square Garden—New York, New York—March 20, 1994



WRESTLEMANIA X

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

THE ROCKERS vs THE ORIENT EXPRESS

1996

SkyDome—Toronto, Canada—April 1, 1990

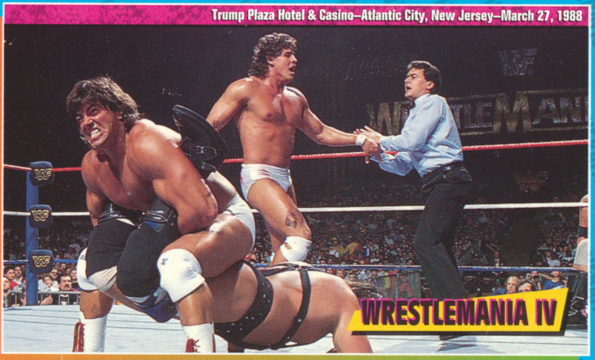
WRESTLEMANIA VI

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

STRIKE FORCE vs DEMOLITION

1996

Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino—Atlantic City, New Jersey—March 27, 1988



WRESTLEMANIA IV

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

28

BATTLE ROYAL

Rosemont Horizon—Chicago, Illinois—April 7, 1986

A high-tech extravaganza for its time, WrestleMania II originated from three arenas in three time zones while carrying the action to all three venues—and the world—via satellite. In Chicago's Rosemont Horizon, Andre the Giant came out the victor in a 20-man over-the-top-rope battle royal that included not only the best in the Federation but also six top National Football League stars!

WRESTLEMANIA II®

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1996

Pontiac Silverdome—Pontiac, Michigan—March 29, 1987

JUNK YARD DOG™ VS KING HARLEY RACE™

An indoor record-breaking crowd of 93,173 filled the Pontiac Silverdome for WrestleMania III. In one match, King Harley Race outlasted Junk Yard Dog to gain the pinfall. The rules stated the loser must bow to the winner, but JYD had different ideas, running Race and manager Bobby Heenan to the dressing room with their tails between their legs!

WRESTLEMANIA III®

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

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STRIKE FORCE™ VS DEMOLITION™

Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino—Atlantic City, New Jersey—March 27, 1988

WrestleMania IV marked the first time that the devastating duo known as Demolition became the Federation Tag Team Champions. In a match that was chock-full of excitement, the power of the challengers Ax and Smash—along with the cane of manager Mr. Fuji—proved to be too much for the high-flying team of Tito Santana and Rick Martel, also known as Strike Force.

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1996

Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino—Atlantic City, NJ—April 2, 1989

HART FOUNDATION™ VS HONKY TONK MAN™ & GREG VALENTINE™

Weeks prior to WrestleMania V, Honky Tonk Man and Greg Valentine ambushed the Hart Foundation. Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart swore revenge. In what was a chaotic contest, the end came quickly for Honky and the Hammer when Bret caught the Elvis wannabe with his dastardly manager's megaphone, knocking him out and pinning him for a 1-2-3.

WRESTLEMANIA V®

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

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1996

The Tradition Continues!

WRESTLEMANIA®

WRESTLEMANIA
Madison Square Garden—New York, NY—March 31, 1985

WRESTLEMANIA II
Rosemont Horizon—Chicago, IL—April 7, 1986

WRESTLEMANIA III
Pontiac Silverdome—Pontiac, MI—March 29, 1987

WRESTLEMANIA IV
Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino—Atlantic City, NJ—March 27, 1988

WRESTLEMANIA V
Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino—Atlantic City, NJ—April 2, 1989

WRESTLEMANIA VI
SkyDome—Toronto, Canada—April 1, 1990

WRESTLEMANIA VII
Los Angeles Sports Arena—Los Angeles, CA—March 24, 1991

WRESTLEMANIA VIII
Hoosier Dome—Indianapolis, Indiana—April 5, 1992

WRESTLEMANIA IX
Caesars Palace—Las Vegas, NV—April 4, 1993

WRESTLEMANIA X
Madison Square Garden—New York, NY—March 20, 1994

WRESTLEMANIA XI
Hartford Civic Center—Hartford, CT—April 2, 1995

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33

1996

SkyDome—Toronto, Canada—April 1, 1990

THE ROCKERS™ VS THE ORIENT EXPRESS™

A record crowd of 67,678 fans jammed the SkyDome for WrestleMania VI. Mr. Fuji's Orient Express took on Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels, the Rockers. Although the Rockers dominated the match, the Express won when Sato blinded Jannetty with a packet of salt outside the ring, preventing him from beating the 10-count back into the ring.

WRESTLEMANIA VI®

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

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JAKE ROBERTS™ VS THE MODEL RICK MARTEL™

Los Angeles Sports Arena—Los Angeles, California—March 24, 1991

In a bizarre "hooded" match, Jake "The Snake" Roberts met the Model Rick Martel. This contest came to be when weeks earlier Roberts had been temporarily blinded by Martel and his cologne Arrogance. Jake wanted Martel to feel what it was like to be without vision and petitioned for this match! In the end, the Snake blinded the Model, courtesy of his devastating DDT.

WRESTLEMANIA VII®

35

1996

Hoosier Dome—Indianapolis, Indiana—April 5, 1992

THE UNDERTAKER® VS JAKE ROBERTS™

In what was to be his last Federation match—for the time being—Jake "The Snake" Roberts signed on to meet the mysterious Undertaker at WrestleMania VIII. Although Jake threw everything that he had at the Taker—including his "deadly" DDT—the Grim Reaper was able to overcome all. In the end it was the Snake who was unable to slither away.

WRESTLEMANIA VIII®

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

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BRET HART™ VS YOKOZUNA™

Madison Square Garden—New York, New York—March 20, 1994

Talk about rockin' the Big Apple! In a showcase of pure guts, Bret "Hit Man" Hart overcame all odds by defeating the monstrous Yokozuna at WrestleMania X, gaining the Federation Title for a second time. What made the feat monumental was that Bret had to successfully bounce back from a crushing defeat only hours earlier at the hands of his devious brother Owen.

WRESTLEMANIA X®

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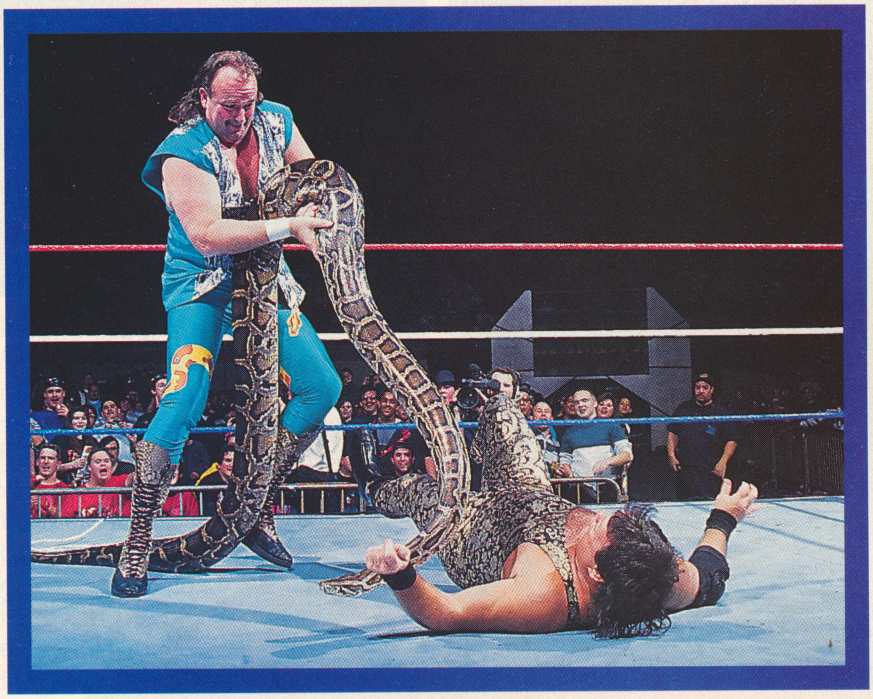
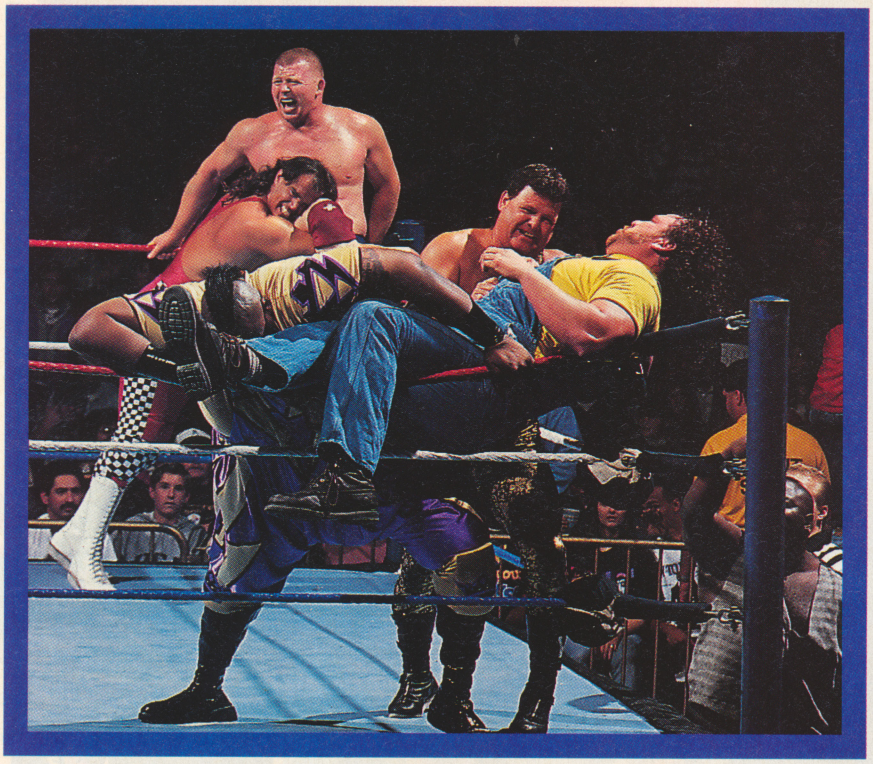
THE 30-MAN ROYAL RUMBLE GENERATIONS CLASH!

For the first time in the *Royal Rumble's* history—which first made the sports-entertainment world quake in January 1988—the World Wrestling Federation enlisted its superstars of the past to compete against the megastars of the New Generation. This year's *Rumble* marked the return of Dory Funk Jr., who last competed on a Federation pay-per-view telecast at *WrestleMania 2* in 1986. The *Rumble* also saw the return of Jake "The Snake" Roberts. Roberts, now a man of religion, dominated the Federation in the 1980s and early 1990s when he overcame such stellar athletes as the late Andre the Giant and the late Dino Bravo. His appearance and performance at the *Rumble* was greeted by a standing ovation from the thousands who converged at the Convention Center in Fresno, California, and by the millions who watched on pay-per-view.

By contrast, the two men who began the *Rumble* were from the New Generation. They were Hunter Hearst-Helmsley and Henry Godwinn. These two men are not strangers to one another. As a matter of fact, they battled one another last December at the *In Your House* extravaganza that was aired live from Hershey, Pennsylvania (now available on Coliseum Home Video).



Their rivalry didn't end at *In Your House*. As soon as they hit the ring, these world-class athletes tore at one another as if there were no tomorrow. They punched, kicked and clotheslined each other with abandon—and all for one purpose. The World Wrestling Federation Title was at stake, after all. The complexion of the battle changed a minute later when Mr. Bob Backlund entered the ring. Backlund, himself a former two-time Federation titleholder, realized that to become champion again, he had to push himself and his opponents to the limit.



He did just that and lashed into Hunter and Godwinn with forearms and legtrips.

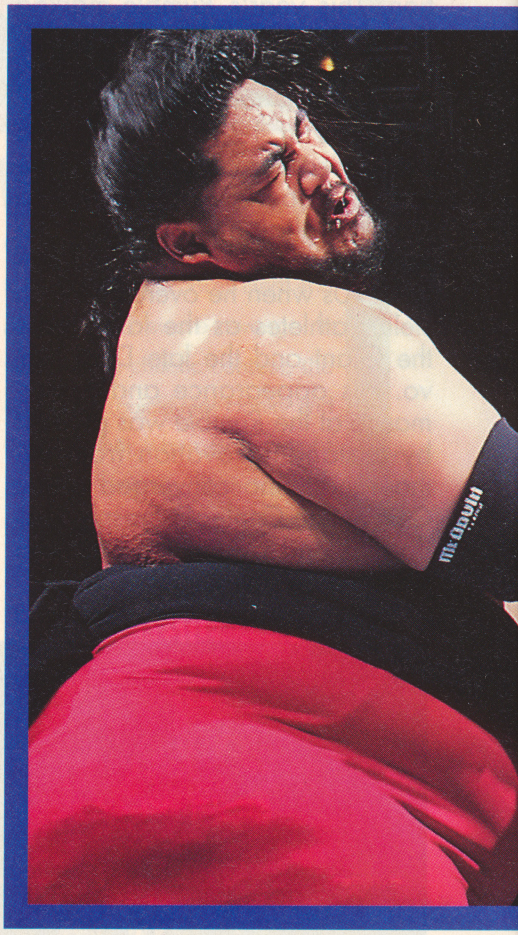
Within a matter of minutes, the squared circle swelled with the toughest and strongest wrestlers that the Federation has ever known, including the Jake the Snake, Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly, Dory Funk, Yokozuna (who weighed in at 641 pounds prior to the event), the destructive Vader, King Mabel and—lest we forget—the other monarch, Jerry "The King" Lawler.

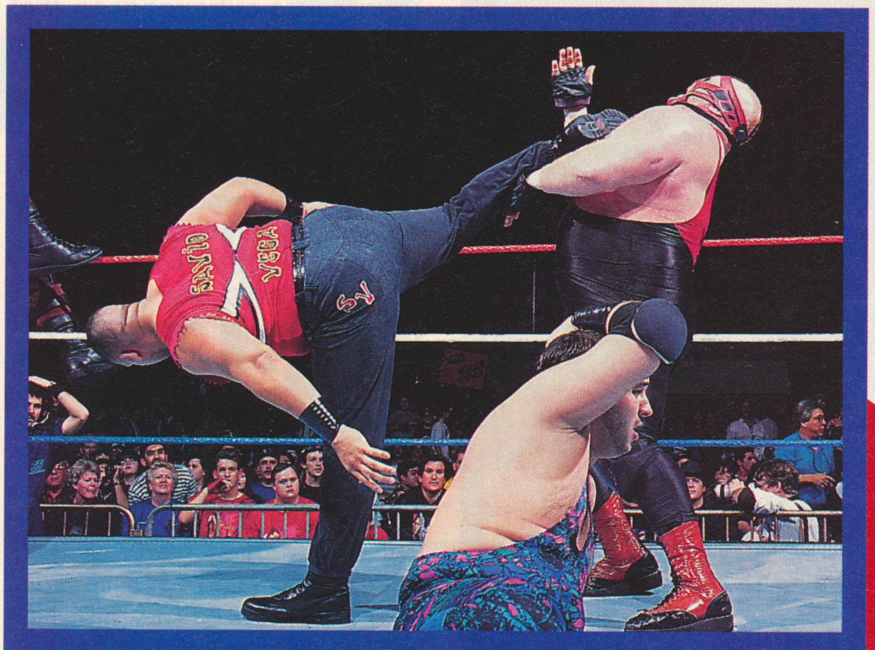
The first casualty of the *Rumble* was Backlund, who was deposited on the arena floor by Yokozuna. Strange, you ask? Aren't they friends? Perhaps. But in the *Royal Rumble*—with the Federation Title held in the balance—friendships, partnerships and family bonds are tossed aside all in the spirit of global wrestling conquest.

That desire to achieve permeated through the heart and soul of every athlete. The *Royal Rumble* was a war without a common enemy, but the cause was firmly entrenched for all those involved. The world saw many clashes they never fathomed, such as the Snake standing toe-to-toe with Yokozuna and the 1-2-3 Kid risking life and limb against Japanese sensation Omori.

More athletes entered the ring, others were pushed to the arena floor, including Mabel who was ousted by Yokozuna, and Omori who became the victim of a venomous (for Omori, at least) Snake bite. Minutes later, the superstars had to contend with other top-ranked superstars, such as Doug Gilbert—brother of former Federation superstar the late Eddie Gilbert—and the Caribbean Legend Savio Vega, who promptly disposed of Dory Funk.

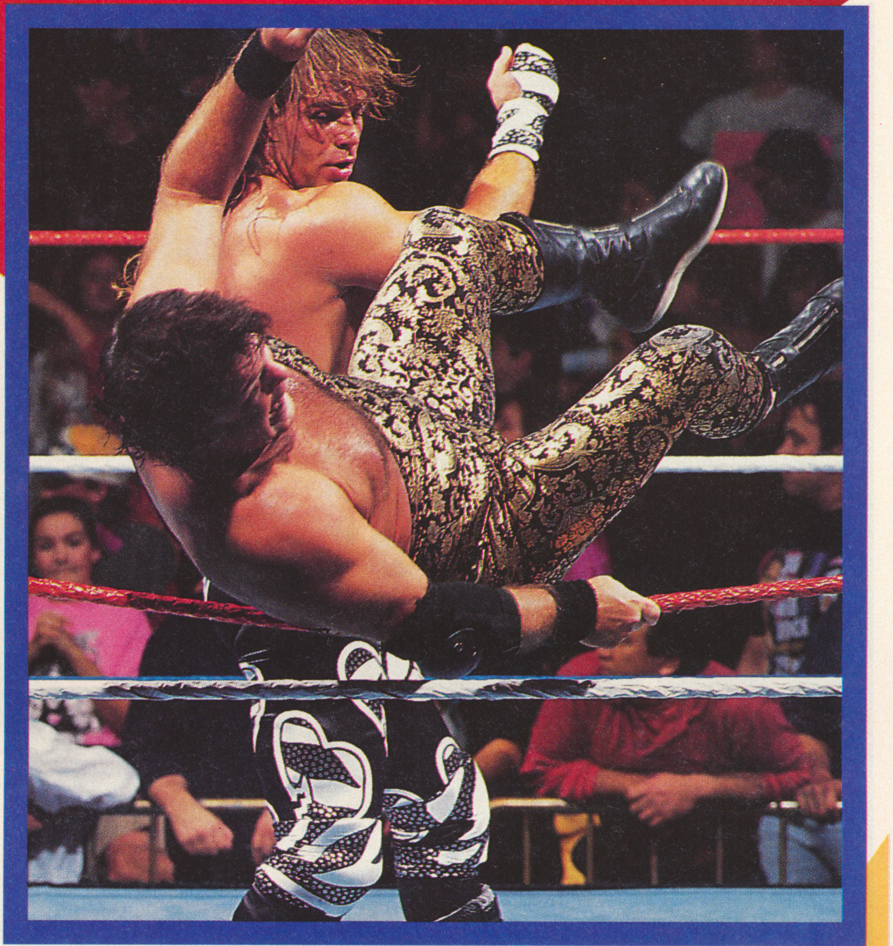
Gilbert, though, didn't last long. He fell into Vader's clutches, was pummeled and unceremoni-



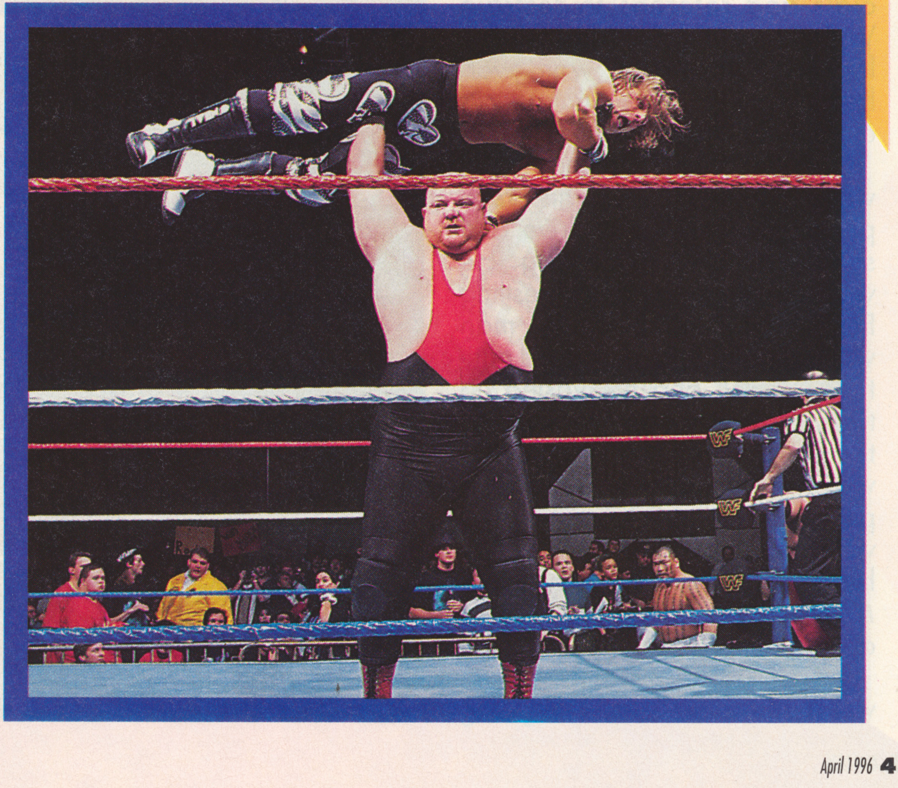


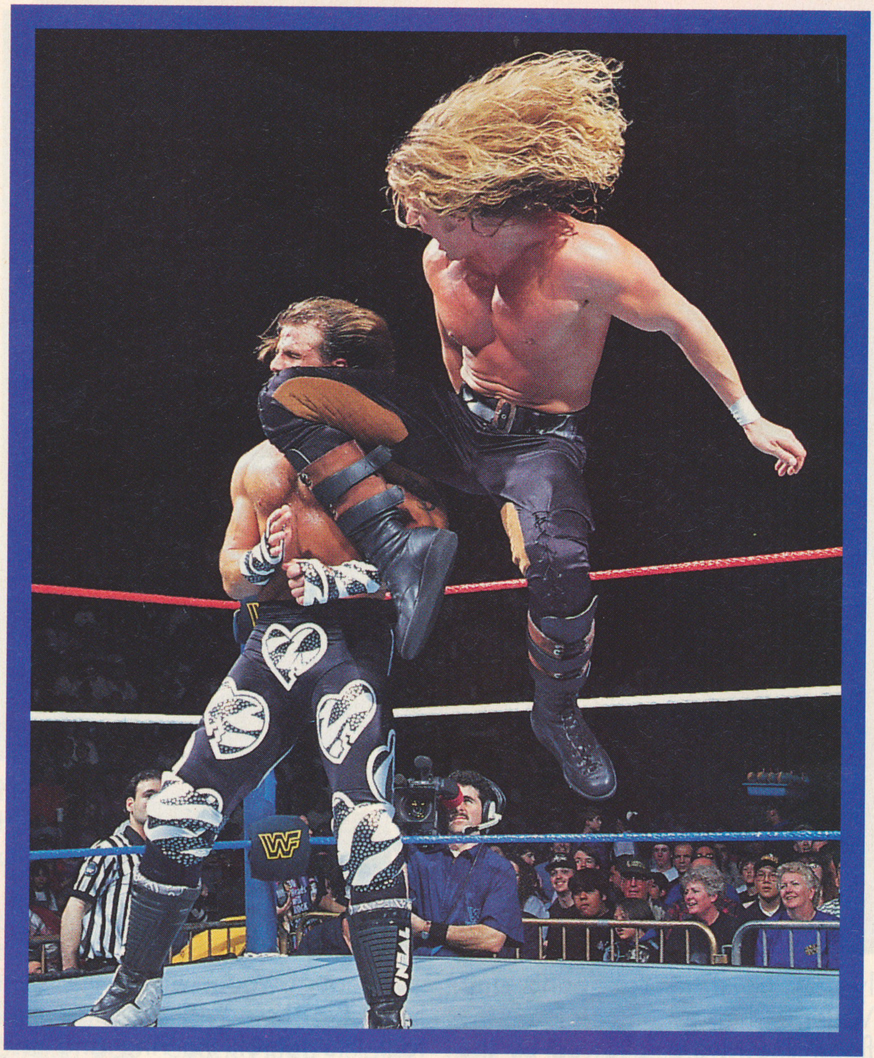
ously dropped to the floor. Vader didn't stop with Gilbert. He bounced a member of the Squat Team from the ring and—with Yokozuna's assistance—wrestled the other Squat member to the floor. Just as that masked behemoth crashed to the cement, Yokozuna and Vader went at each other in what some mat observers have already dubbed "the clash to end all clashes."

Then came the "man who dared to dream." Prior to the *Rumble*, he, like all his counterparts, drew a number. His was No. 18. He was Shawn Michaels, and his appearance initially drew tears from the thousands on hand. Many doubted his will, his well-being and his wrestling ability. But once again, the Heartbreak Kid—as he has done countless times before—gave the doubters a superkick of faith. Right off the hip-hop, he eliminated the two biggest threats—literally and figuratively—by hoisting Yokozuna and Vader to their eventual fate on the floor. They were followed by the 1-2-3 Kid, who shot over the strands like a dart.



Although Vader was legitimately ousted, he couldn't handle the fact. He retook the ring and unleashed his savage temper, battering all who dared to stand before





SHAWN MICHAELS

"I hate to say I told ya so, but I told you so! And now the Kliq and I are gonna party all the way to WrestleMania XII!"

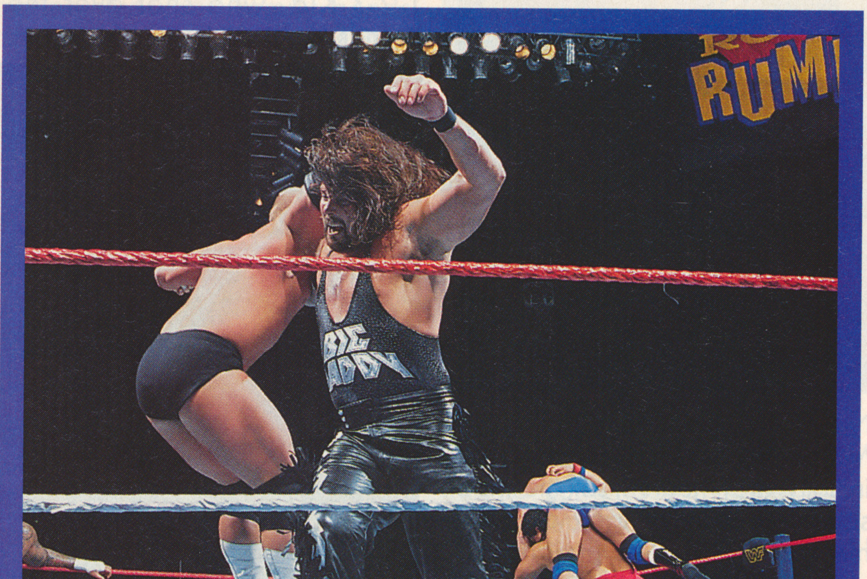
him, including Michaels and Helmsley. It took a roster of officials and referees to restrain Vader's wrath. En route to the locker room, Vader was overheard saying that "Michaels is dead meat, brother!"

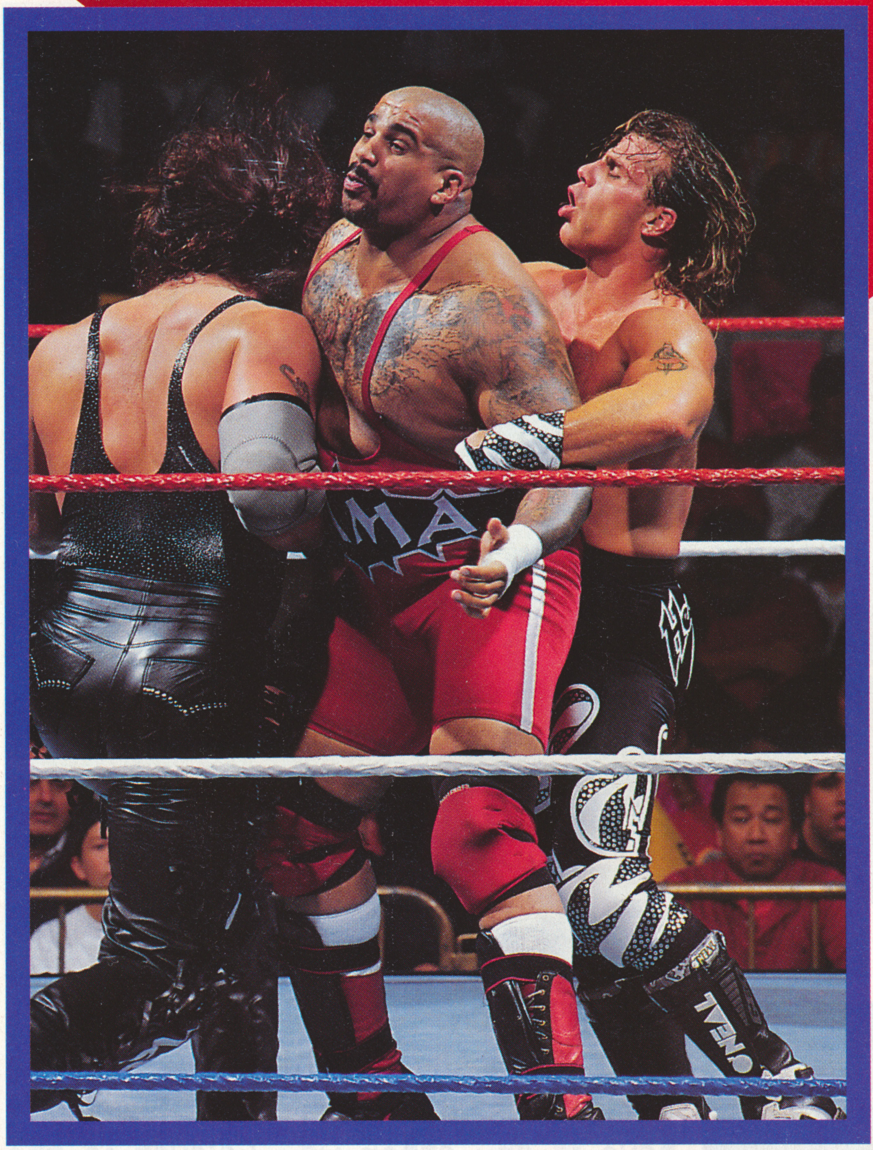
Seconds later, however, a man with many road kills to his credit put his engine in overdrive and screamed toward the ring. He was the former World Wrestling Federation Champion, the man with the old and improved attitude, Diesel, and he wasted no time in running over the competition. Victim No. 1 was Tatanka, who made a pothole in Fresno's pavement. Helmsley was the next victim. Poor guy. A month earlier he was dropped in slop at *In Your House*; at the *Rumble*, he made a dent in cement.

Michaels had his hands full as well, but as usual he was fighting the odds. His former tag team partner, Marty Jannetty, rushed the ring and bounded at the Heartbreak Kid. Jannetty, who teamed with Michaels in the Rockers in the 1980s and early 1990s, unleashed a salvo of blows—all of which aimed at Shawn's vulnerable temple area. Michaels was then besieged by the British Bulldog and Owen Hart, which only made many feel that the Heartbreak Kid didn't have long for the world or the World Wrestling Federation.

Nevertheless, he persisted. He mustered the strength and the skill to oust Isaac Yankem D.D.S.—a man who weighs in excess of 300 pounds if he weighs an ounce and who is as every bit as mean as he is huge.

Big Daddy Cool, like his former partner Michaels, was also



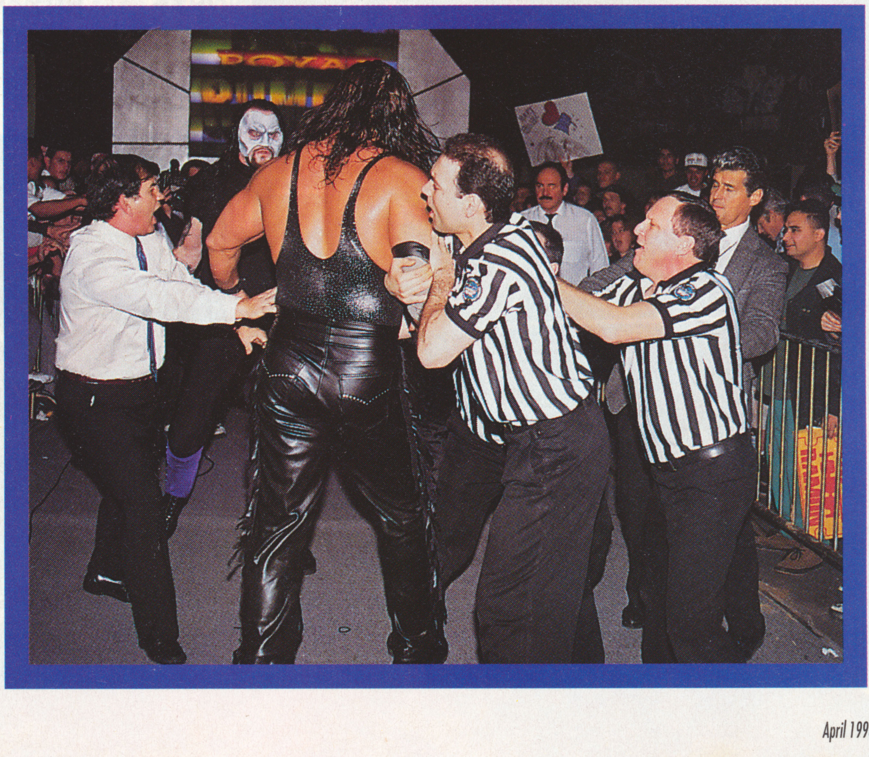


dealing with big men. Diesel went toe-to-toe with Kama, the Supreme Fighting Machine. At the *Rumble*, Diesel threw a monkey wrench to suppress the Supreme Machine and boosted him from the ring with relative ease—an amazing feat of strength when one considers Kama's size and combative skills.

Then came the clash the world didn't want to see but was forced to endure: Shawn battling his former tag team partner and lifetime friend, Diesel. Being the competitors that they are, the two men tore into one another like caged lions, neither giving any quarter or asking for a hint of forgiveness. At that time, they were enemies, driven by the sole purpose of championship gold.

They fought and fought and fought, each trying in earnest to eliminate the other. However, in the end, the story of David and Goliath came to pass. Shawn Michaels, a man with the odds against him and his back against an unshakable wall, prevailed. He tapped into his inner reserves—which is only true to athletes of his caliber—and then eliminated Big Daddy Cool from the ring. Shawn Michaels, for a second consecutive year, will now face the Federation Champion at *WrestleMania XII*.

However, Diesel wasn't quite through with combat. Seemingly motivated by a dying need to face the best athletes alive or "undead," Diesel came face to face with the Undertaker while returning to the locker room. Prior to the *Rumble*, Diesel clarified that he wasn't moved or threatened in any way by the Man from the Dark Side. With that in mind, Diesel and the Taker clashed, trading blows until Big Daddy Cool disappeared behind the entrance curtain while Shawn Michaels absorbed the adulation of his fans and the realization that his dream of winning the Federation Title lay one *WrestleMania* match ahead of him.

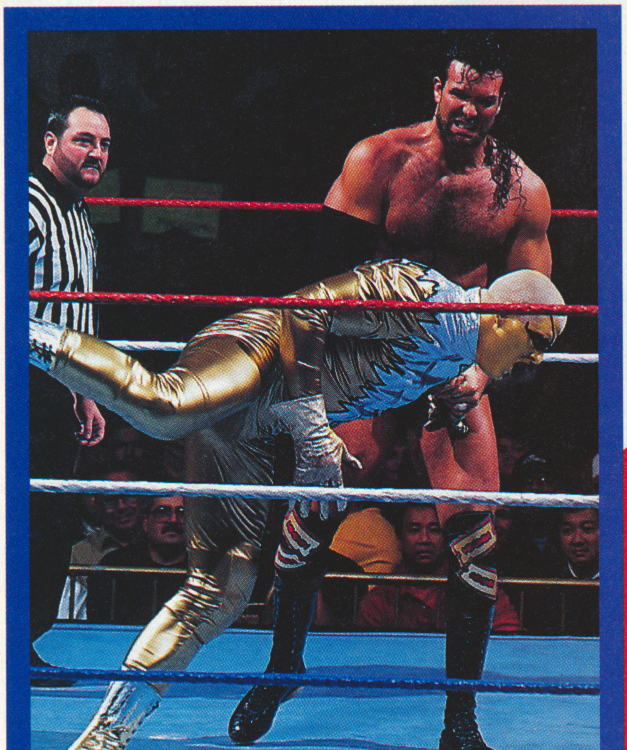


THE GOLD'S ON GOLD

GOLDUST TAKES RAZOR'S BELT!

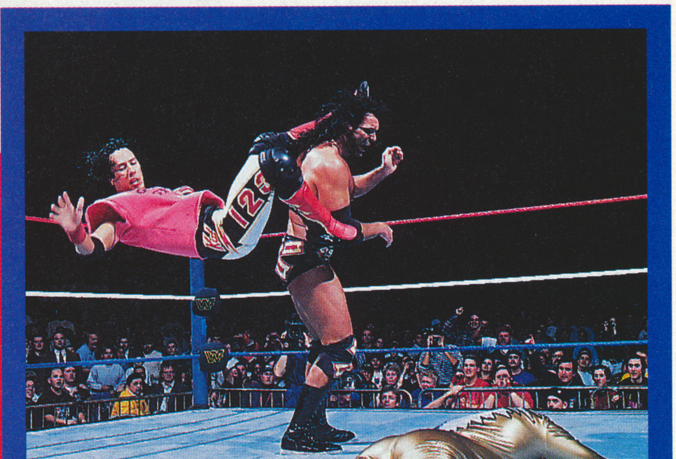
In one of the most anticipated Intercontinental Title matches in World Wrestling Federation history, Champion Razor Ramon put the belt on the line against his nemesis Goldust. Months prior to the *Rumble*, Goldust had badgered Razor with the kind of double talk that can turn the tabloid world on its ear. Goldust made some scathing innuendos about Razor—leading the public to believe that there was more to the issue than met the eye. Goldust wanted the public to think that his conquest was more of a sexual nature than a wrestling endeavor.

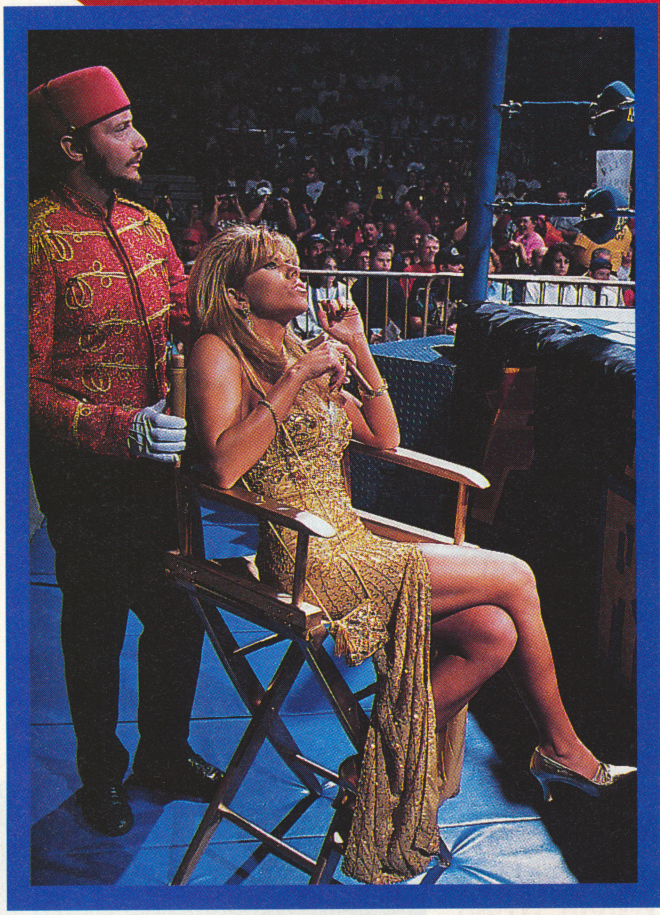
It was all a calculated ploy. Goldust knew that Razor dripped machismo. He knew that Razor was dripping with gold. But Goldust used innuendo—a method so common in the media

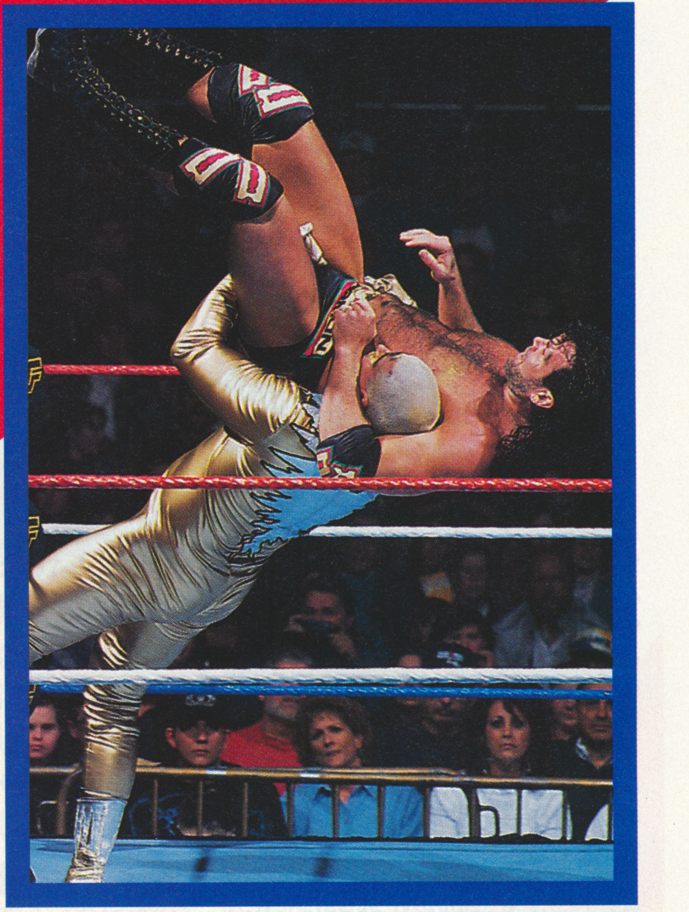


RAZOR RAMON

"Hey, they say anything goes in the World Wrestling Federation. I wouldn't have it any other way. Goldust is the new Intercontinental Champion now—for how long, we'll see."







these days—and he caused the Bad Guy to lose his cool.

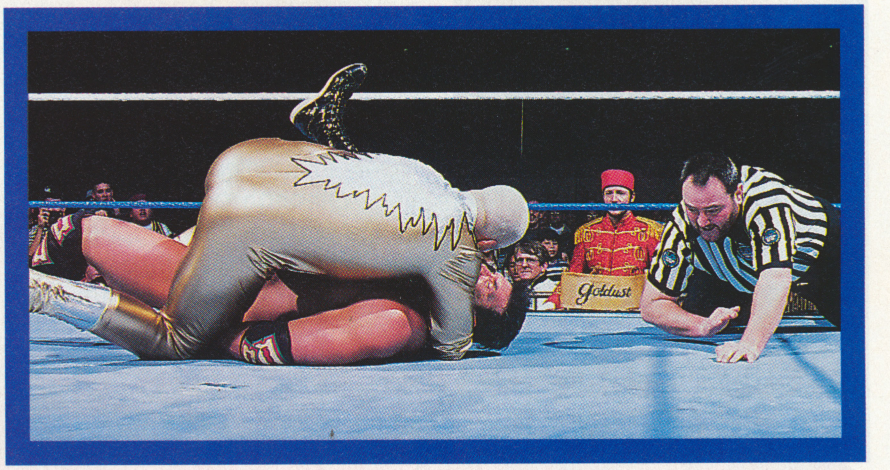
Goldust was led to the ring by a stunning woman, and she—more than any move in his vast wrestling arsenal—played the biggest role in this drama of the World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Title.

Before Goldust could even disrobe, Razor was all over him, blasting him with punches and chops to the pectorals and sternum. In fact, Ramon kept the momentum going in his favor for a portion of the match, perhaps in an effort to punish his challenger for every putrid remark that oozed from his gold-plated lips.

GOLDUST
"And the last thing he said to me, 'Rock,' he said, 'sometimes when the team is up against it and the breaks are beating the boys, tell them to go out there with all they've got and win just one for the Gipper.' "—Knute Rockne, All-American, 1940

Everything looked as if it were going Ramon's way. It looked as if everything was falling into place, but as we have seen so many times at the movies, there was a twist to the plot.

Just when Razor was ready to finish off his opponent, Goldust's "mystery" woman stole his attention. As the Bad Guy turned, setting his sights on the glamorous beauty, the 1-2-3 Kid appeared out of nowhere and, with the referee's back turned, caught Razor off the top rope with a kick to the head. Without taking a cut, Goldust crashed down atop the Bad Guy, scoring the pinfall and winning the Intercontinental Championship.

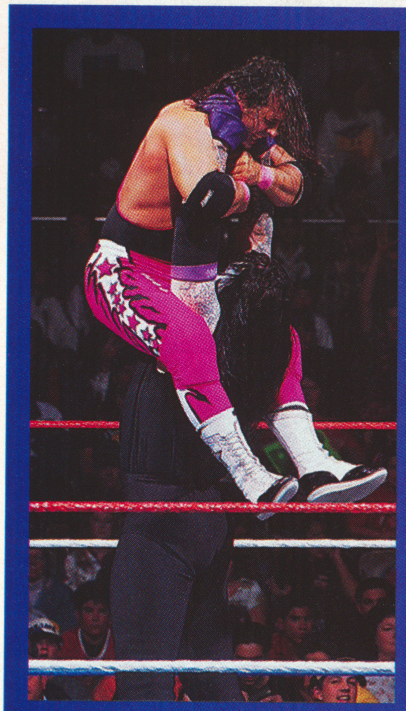


BRET HART VS. THE UNDERTAKER DIESEL GETS THE FINAL...WORD?

Ever since the Undertaker crept into the Federation in 1990, people have been waiting for him to face Bret Hart. At the time, Bret was primarily involved in tag team action; the Undertaker, then under the tutelage of Brother Love, was making a name for himself in singles competition.

As the years wore on, the two athletes began to gravitate toward one another, not so much by attitudes but by fans' speculation. "Who would win if Bret wrestled the Grim Reaper?" people often asked. They wondered who would have an edge. Could Bret's superior wrestling skill topple the Undertaker? Or would the Undertaker's arcane powers beat the Hit Man?

And so the world talked. And so the world waited. And waited. And waited. The world waited until January 21, 1996, when these two sensational Federation superstars collided at the *Royal Rumble* with the title at stake.

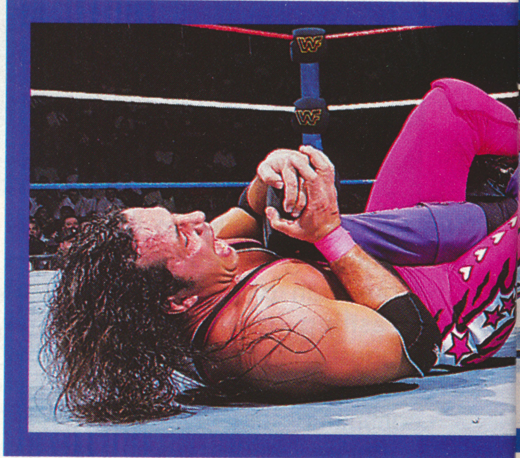


BRET HART

"I'm mostly disappointed for my fans and the Undertaker's fans. We both wanted to see a winner. I don't think either one of us would have had a problem with the other one winning or losing. Diesel cost everybody tonight. What he did was disgraceful for a guy who used to be a hero and a guy that people used to look up to. I know I don't look up to him anymore. I haven't ever since the Survivor Series."

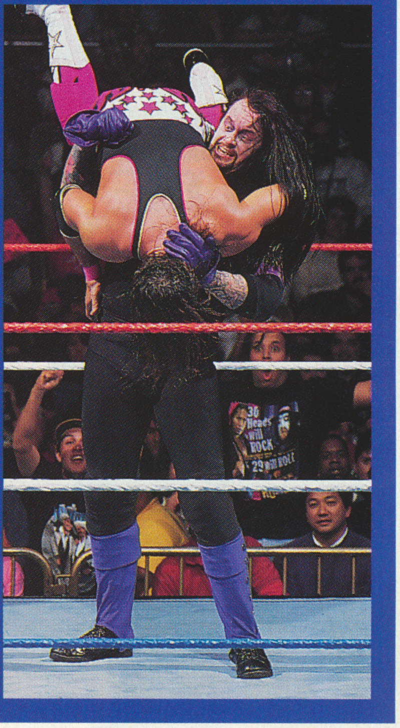
As soon as the Undertaker and the Hit Man stepped through the ropes, they unleashed their anger. Bret, although outweighed, went on the offensive. He snapped back the Taker's head with a series of stiff blows. One struck the Dark Man's chin and sent his head and hair flying about; another connected on his cheek and finally added some color—that of red—to his pale face. But the momentum—like death itself— changed suddenly.

The Undertaker, an instinctive or, depending on your viewpoint, extinctive, wrestler if there ever was one, turned the tides. With a veil of fingers, he raked the Hit Man's eyes, temporarily blinding him. The Dead Man followed up his actions, smashing the Hit Man with forearms and heavy boots to the midsection, the impact of which would have folded, if not utterly destroyed, other adversaries, but it did little to the Hit Man.



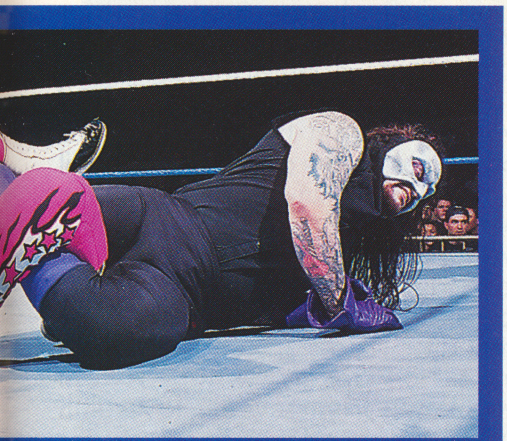
He was still able to take more punishment, which the Undertaker liberally dispensed. He nailed the Hit Man with an Irish whip and blasted him with a shot to the deltoids from the top ropes.

From there, the tide of battle ebbed and flowed in both men's favor. For instance, the Undertaker charged the Hit Man, who met him with a knee to the skull and followed up with a clothesline that nearly decapitated the Federation's resident mortician. Once the war drifted to the arena floor, things



went haywire. There, they punched, kicked and used the ring steps to inflict mortal bodily harm.

However, these two can't be classified as mortal. They fought on—and hard. In fact, at one point,

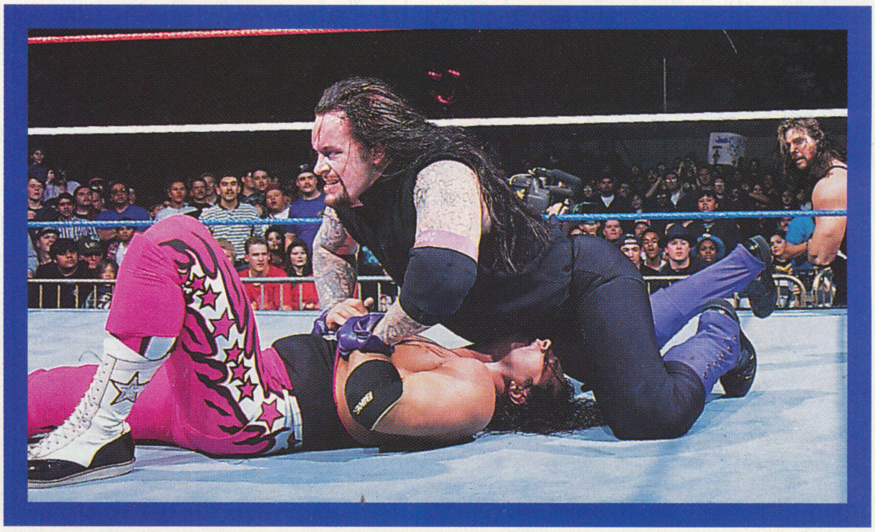


Bret ignored caution and dived through the ropes onto the Taker—a feat that unquestionably took more heart than skill but, in the end, reeked of right intentions.

After they exchanged a series of vicious blows on the arena floor, the action returned to the ring, where the match took a decided turn. The Undertaker—who tapped into his darkest reserves—mounted a comeback and ensnared the Hit Man in the dreaded Tombstone reverse piledriver, a move many say is downright lethal. The Undertaker drove the Hit Man's head into the mat and crossed his arms, but just before the Undertaker and manager Paul Bearer could administer last rites and the pinfall, Diesel rushed to ringside and yanked the referee from the ring—one count away from the decisive three-count. Then, to add insult to injury, Big Daddy Cool flipped an obscene gesture in the direction of the Reaper.

It was either a solid case of Diesel wanting the gratification of defeating Bret himself or he had a personal score to settle with the Undertaker. Following the interference, the Undertaker leapt from the ring and stalked Big Daddy Cool down the aisle. In the end, the Hit Man had retained his title by means of a disqualification.

PAUL BEARER
"I watched my Undertaker Tombstone Bret Hart. I watched my Undertaker cross Bret Hart's hands over his chest. I watched my Undertaker cover him, and I heard the referee count 1-2—and then I couldn't believe it! There he was again—Diesel! Every time we turn around, it's Diesel! I'm afraid that my Undertaker is going to have to do something about DIESEL!"



BENEATH THE SKIN

AN INTERVIEW WITH:
Shawn Michaels

PART ONE: THE KID AND TH

SHAWN MICHAELS CHASES HIS DESTINY

When Vince McMahon describes the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels, the adjectives "flamboyant" and "resilient" always seem to come flowing out of his mouth—and rightfully so! However, there is much more to the man who has been shaking the World Wrestling Federation from its rafters since his early Rocker days in the late '80s. There is a side that—up until now—only his family and close friends have been privy to. A side that shows a sincere, honest and genuine individual who is often outspoken—but, maybe even more so, a side that is frequently misunderstood.

Over the next two issues of *World Wrestling Federation Magazine*, we are going to bring you up close and personal into the "phenom" known as the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels. You will see a side of Shawn Michaels that he has never revealed to the public before. From his early years as an army brat to his World Wrestling Federation debut, through his horrifying ordeal in Syracuse and right up until today—only weeks before he attempts to turn the dreams of a 12-year-old boy into the reality and the destiny of a 30-year-old man.

EDITOR: Shawn, I'd like to begin by your telling us a little bit about your childhood.

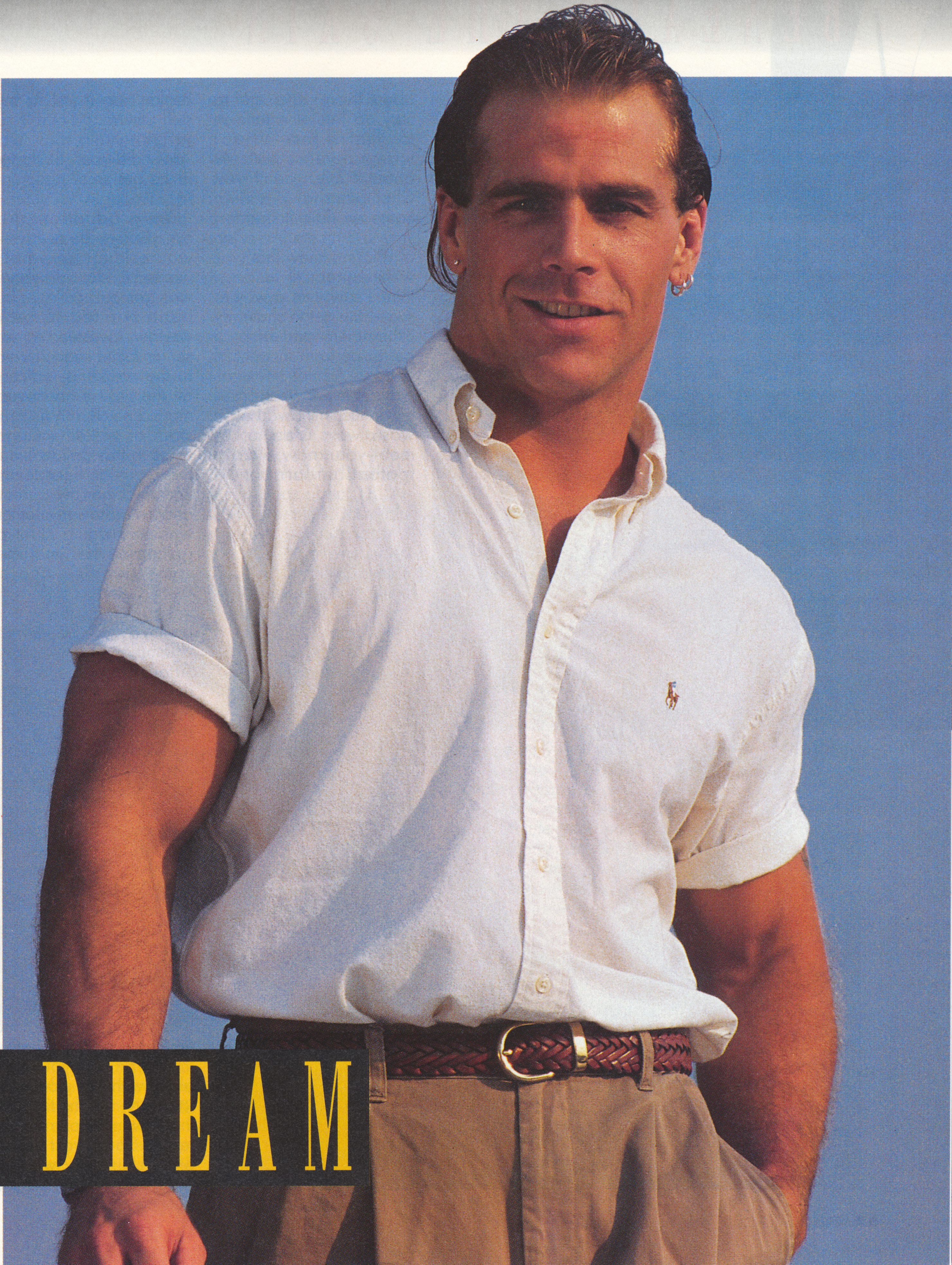
SHAWN: Well, my mother and father got married about two or three months after they met each other. I was the youngest of four children. I have two older brothers and an older sister. I was born right outside of Phoenix, Arizona, in Scottsdale, at Williams Air Force Base. My father, who was born in Clinton, Iowa, was a pilot in the Air Force. He was known as a "Fly Boy." He volunteered for two tours of duty in Vietnam. My mom basically stayed back and raised us kids. Two months after I was born, we moved to England. That's when my father went to Vietnam for the first time. After he left, we moved back to my mother's hometown of Storm Lake, Iowa. When he came back, he was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base and worked for the Pentagon in Washington. When I was about 6 years old, we moved to Del Rio, Texas, where my father served at Laughlin Air Force Base and then later at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio. He retired at Randolph a full-bird colonel after 25 years in the Air Force. Following his retirement, we spent the rest of our lives in Texas.

EDITOR: What do you remember most about your childhood?

SHAWN: I mostly start remembering the time when my father was stationed in Washington and we were living in Maryland. My family was always very close. I remember playing football with my brothers—wherever and whenever we could. Then, when we moved to San Antonio, I played football from the time I was 6 years old up right up until the time I was 17.

EDITOR: Seventeen. The high school years. Tell me about that time.

SHAWN: I was the "new kid" at Randolph High School, where I went from seventh to twelfth grade. I fit in rather quickly. Again, I think it was due to football. I always played at the Air Force Base and bragged about being a "big-time" player. I was an outside linebacker who always played both ways. I also played baseball and track, but I concentrated mostly on football. I was a pretty decent student



E DREAM

BENEATH THE SKIN

who made A's, B's and C's without trying that hard. I think, had I applied myself a little bit more, I might have made straight A's, but I was a jock. You know, captain of the football team.

EDITOR: Are you telling me that this is where you might have developed your reputation as a ladies' man?

SHAWN: I was always a one-woman kind of guy. I almost always had a girlfriend. I never ran around with a bunch of girls. I always dated the most attractive and intelligent girls. I was shy, though. I usually didn't approach girls; they usually approached me. In time I became more relaxed, but at that time I didn't say much. I guess you could say I was introverted—that is, of course, before I got into professional wrestling.

EDITOR: Which leads me to my next question: Your start in professional wrestling. How? When? Where? Who?

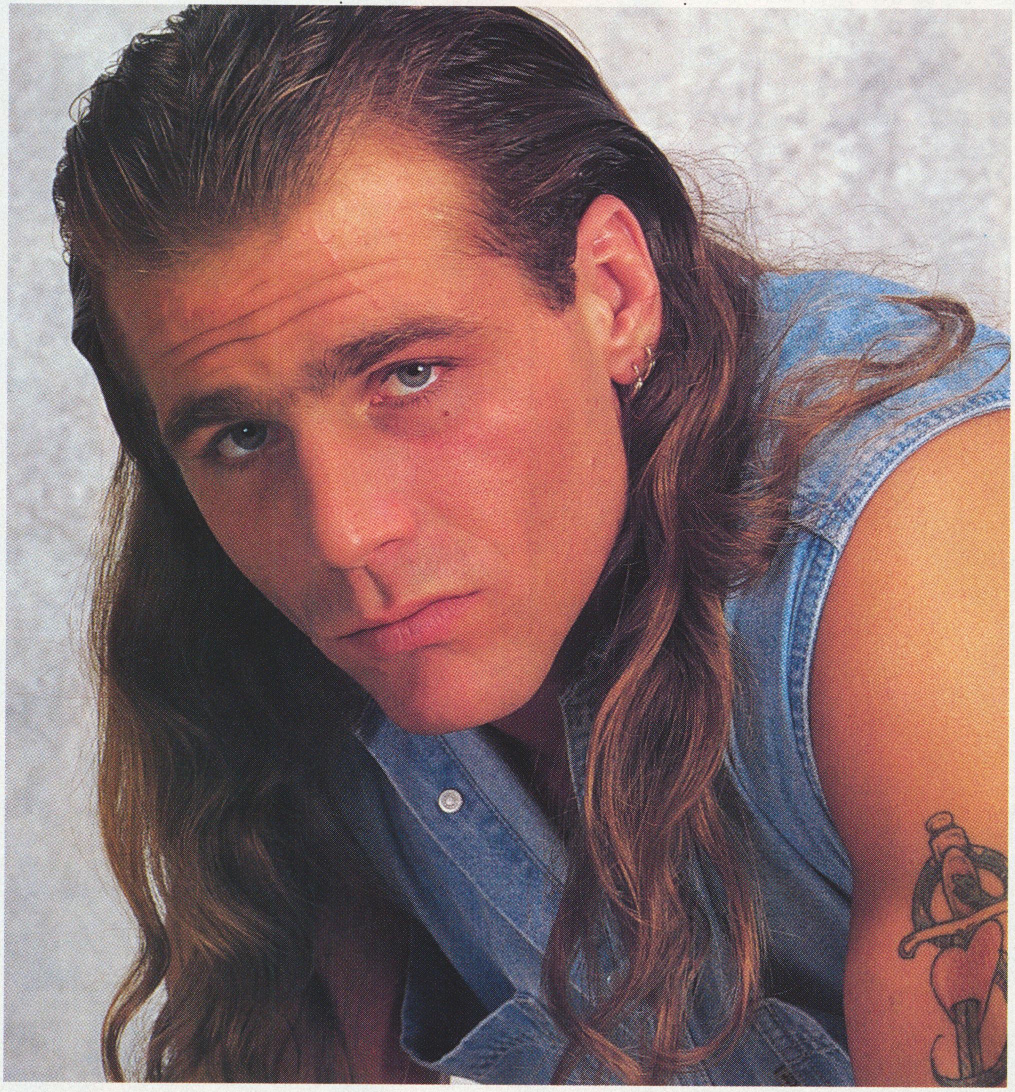
SHAWN: It's getting to be a boring story to everybody, but I'll tell you about it anyway. I got to stay up late one time—for the first time—when I was 12 years old. At about 12:30, Southwest Championship Wrestling came on. The first time I saw it, it hit me like a ton of bricks. I knew that was what I wanted to do. I think I saw it as a way to somehow get to show my athleticism and also to get to perform in front of people. Again, I was always shy, but when I had a chance, I showed off! I was always under a helmet—you know, with a football uniform on—I couldn't do it just as myself, Shawn.

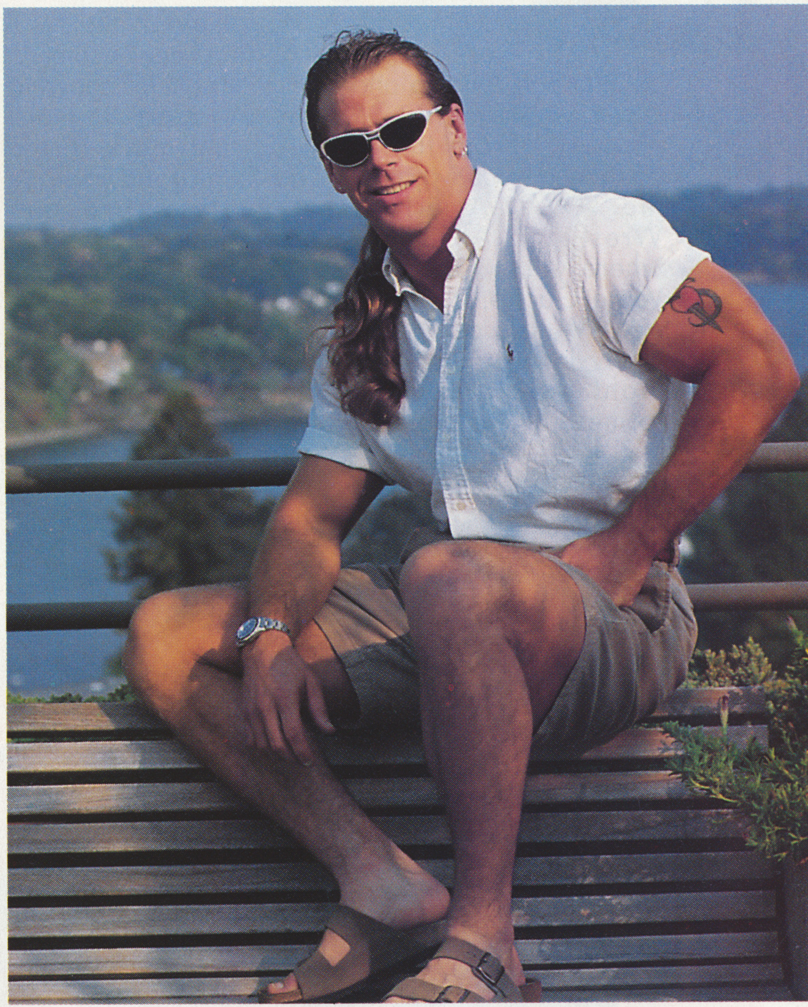
EDITOR: How did you get started in the business?

SHAWN: On graduation day everybody—as always—was asking me what I wanted to do. Everybody was going to college, but I still wanted to be a wrestler. I wrestled for my senior talent show, I went to the wrestling matches all the time, I had every magazine—I still have a stack of wrestling magazines to this day that is 6 feet high—so I just continued to bother my parents about it! Then my father, who was doing a lot of golfing at the time, met some people—one of them being a guy who said that he knew the promoter of Southwest Championship Wrestling. After nagging him and nagging him some more, my father finally took me down to meet the gentleman, who was a used car salesman—you know, your generous and honest type of guy. But, anyway, at 17 years old, I went and talked to him—well, he and my father did most of the talking. They discussed how I should go to college first and after I was done with college, if I still wanted to be a wrestler, he would introduce me to someone who would train me, and we would go from there.

EDITOR: So, you went along with that plan?

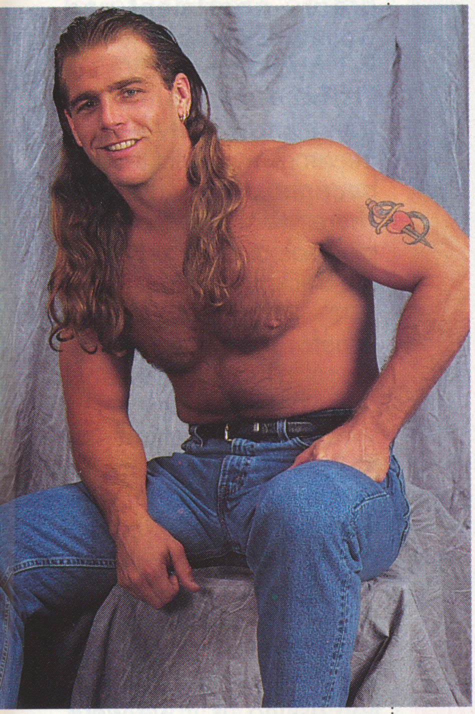
SHAWN: For the time being. I went to one semester at Southwest Texas State University where I was "supposed" to at-





tend classes. As it turned out, I didn't go much, but I did learn all that partying stuff. That's when *Animal House* was big, and I was your regular John Belushi, running around with all my buddies. My dad bought me and a high school friend of mine a trailer so we didn't have to live on campus. We just went hog wild and had fun!

EDITOR: And then what happened next?



SHAWN: Well, one night we were having a party at the trailer, and I went into the bathroom—I don't know how much of this you can use, but it's the truth. I grabbed my electric razor, purposely gaffed my head with it, started bleeding, then went after my buddies screaming, "I'm a wrestler! I'm a wrestler!" I chased my best friend up the street where he went running up to a store, got on the phone with my mom and said, " You've got to make him a wrestler; he's going insane!" After pummeling my friend for a while, I grabbed the phone, and my mom said, "You've got to come home!" So I finished that semester, and then my dad and I went back to that used car salesman. My dad told him, "You'd better forget the school stuff because he's wasting my money!" So then the guy introduced me to a wrestler named Jose Lothario. I started training when I was about 18. After two months, Jose told me that I was ready. I mean, I had practiced everything before we even started training! I knew what I was doing long before I even got into it. I'd already been watching it for years, and I was obsessed with it! I had practiced on every friend that I had in high school! Jose mostly got me in shape and taught me the finer points of wrestling.

EDITOR: Tell us about your first professional match.

SHAWN: Two weeks after my nineteenth birthday, Jose got me booked in a territory called Mid-South Wrestling, which was being run by Bill Watts. Bill was the first guy I ever worked for. I worked for him for six months. I had my first match—which I lost—in Lake Charles, Louisiana, against a guy named Art Cruz. I went to a 15-minute time limit draw in my second match, and I finally won my third one. After Mid-South, Bill got me booked in Kansas City with Bob Geigel. It was in Kansas City that I met Marty Jannetty and tag teamed with him once. We got to hang around with each other a bit, and that's when I became a troublemaker. I never talked to anybody before I met Marty. (Laughing) He turned me into a degenerate. He was a crazy man! After wrestling there for three months, Jose and Chavo Guerrero called me and told me that Southwest Championship Wrestling had turned into Texas All-Star Wrestling, and they wanted me to come back home and be the "home-

"I never talked to anybody before I met Marty. He turned me into a degenerate. He was a crazy man!"

town" boy. So I went back to San Antonio and started wrestling.

EDITOR: From there, you found your way into the AWA (American Wrestling Alliance), where you worked for Verne Gagne. It was in the AWA that, along with Marty Jannetty, the Midnight Rockers were formed. In the months that followed, the Midnight Rockers became a sensation, thus allowing you and Marty to make your first mark in the wrestling world. Tell me about that time and about your relationship with Marty Jannetty outside of the ring.

SHAWN: We were best friends. I don't think you could get any closer than we were. Looking back on it, I don't know, maybe it wasn't the relationship I thought it was, but nonetheless we were close. We were all each other had. We lived in the same area, we traveled together, we were with each other for practically 24 hours a day for six years—and we had a blast! We were doing something that we loved to do! We were rocking the house, we were having good matches, we were learning and we were having fun! We weren't making "huge" money, but we were making good money. I was driving a 300ZX, and we were partying and just having a blast!

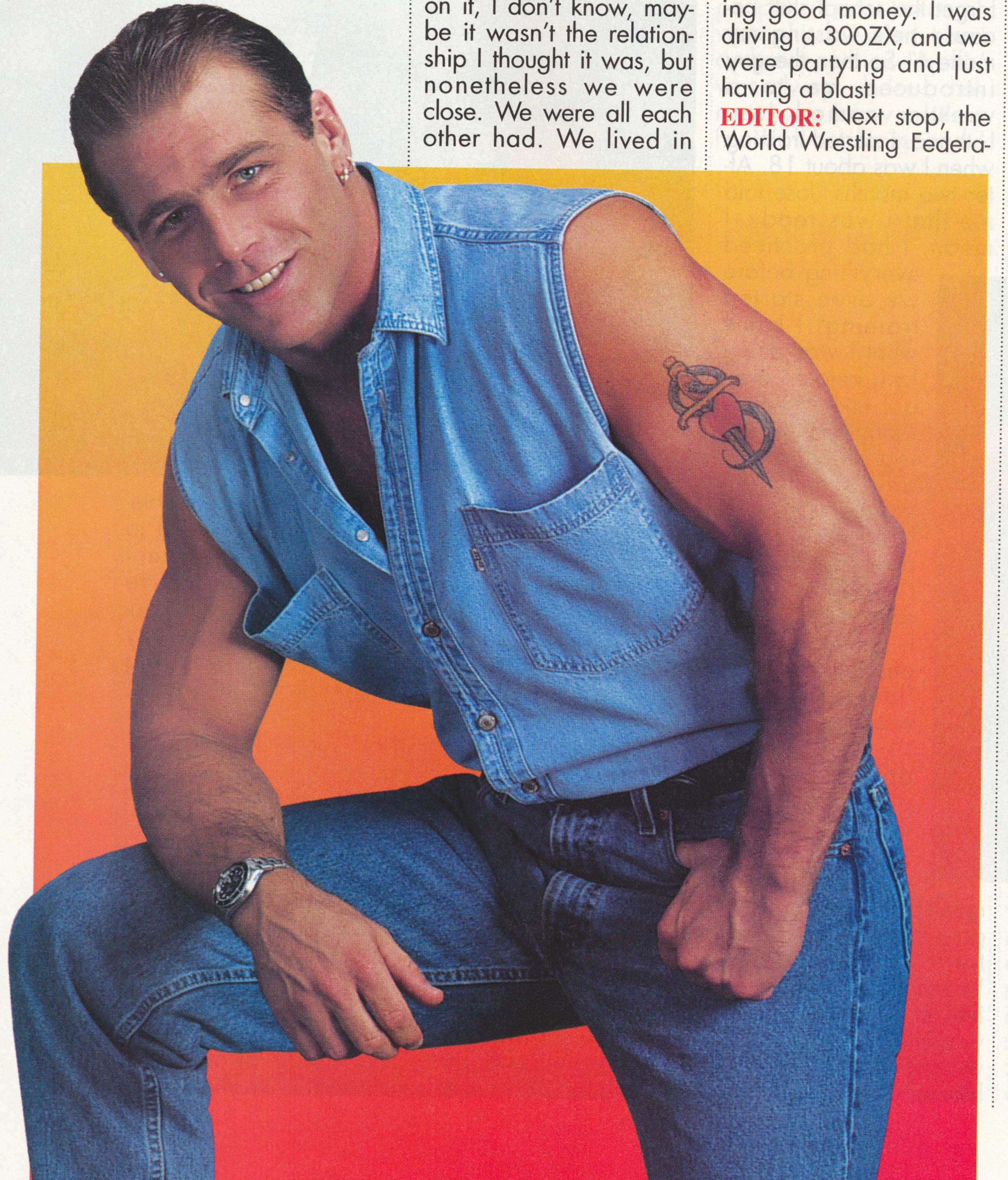
EDITOR: Next stop, the World Wrestling Federation. How did that come about, Shawn?

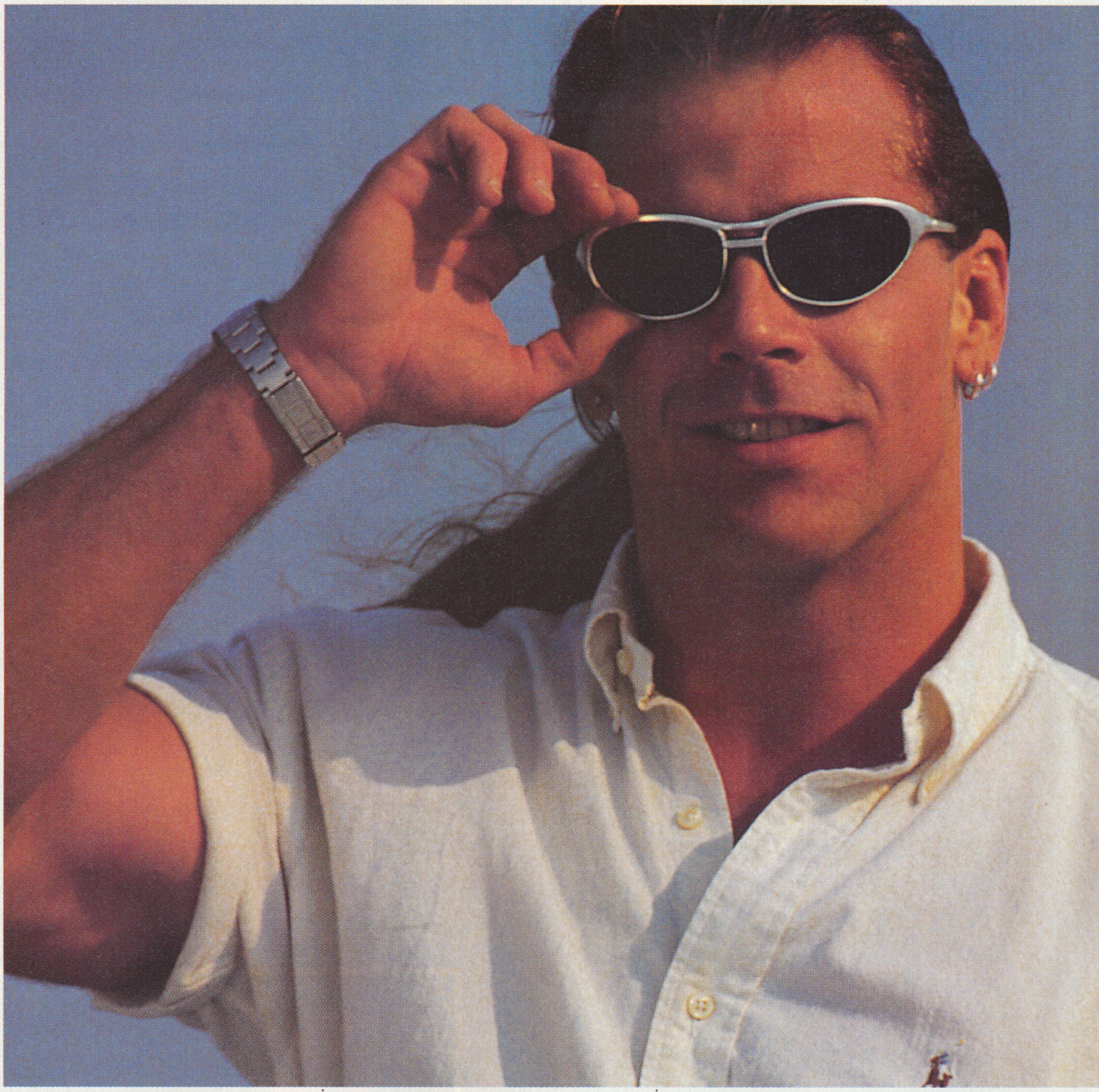
SHAWN: While we were in the AWA, we got a lot of exposure on cable television. In time we got a call from the World Wrestling Federation and were asked to come in for a TV taping. The night of the taping—our first night in—we had a little fun at a nightclub, and the second day we got fired. (Laughing) The second day we were gone! So it was back down to the trenches again. We went down to the Continental Wrestling Alliance, where we had to live in Birmingham, Alabama. AGH! I lived in this underground, dark, dreary apartment and was MISERABLE! I felt as if I had blown EVERYTHING! Somehow—I don't know how—it all became my fault. It soon became a HUGE story! There were a lot of people jealous of Marty and me back then.

EDITOR: How long was it before you and Marty were given a second chance by the World Wrestling Federation?

SHAWN: One more year. After Continental we went back to the AWA, where we won the Tag Team Title again. Soon after that we got another call from the World Wrestling Federation asking us if we were ready to be "good boys." I was 23 years old at the time.

EDITOR: After going through the ranks and paying your dues, how did you adjust to finally making it to the "big





leagues"? Was the transition difficult for you?

SHAWN: It was obviously the big leagues! Marty and I were both around people whom we had watched for years! It was like a dream come true! We were among the biggest names in wrestling. We were going to New York City. We were going to Los Angeles. We were going to Chicago, AND we were performing in front of huge crowds of people! Then, on top of all that, there were still the pay-per-views! It was certainly everything we expected and more! And we were still having a good time! I think the Rockers had a lot of influence on tag team wrestling in general. We were the team, I think, that pioneered the way for a lot of tag teams. We made people look lazy. We made people get off their butts and have to work a lot harder!

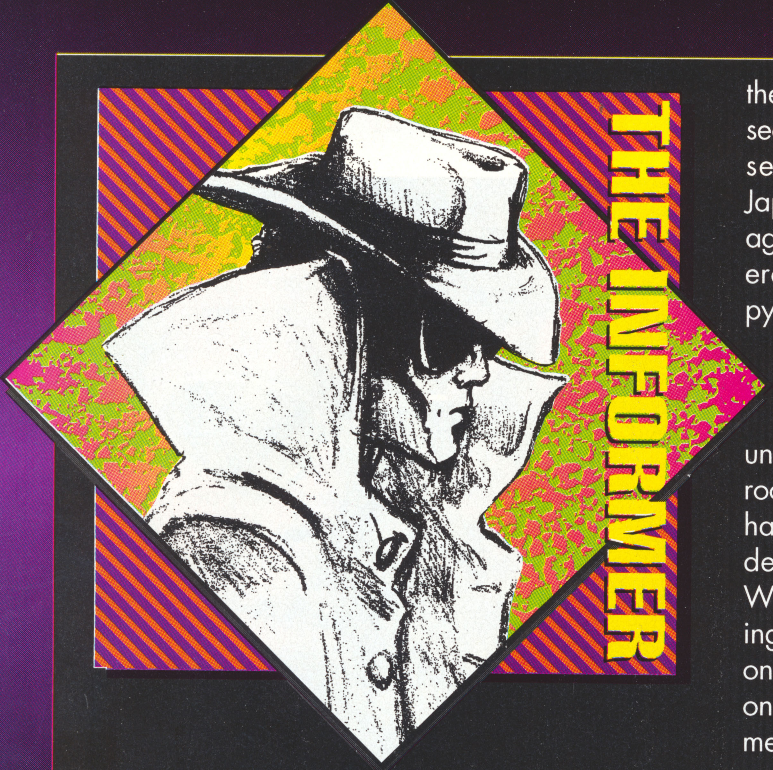
EDITOR: In time came the break-up of the Rockers. Since the bulk of the success in your career came within the tag team ranks, was there any doubt in your mind that Shawn Michaels could make it in the World Wrestling Federation as an individual performer? Any insecurities? What was going through your mind at the time?

SHAWN: No. I always knew from the day that I broke in that what I wanted to do was be a singles superstar, be the best and be a world champion—NO DOUBT! The tag team thing just happened. When I met Marty, we tagged one time, and something was just there. He knew it, and I knew it. We were away from each other for almost a year before we saw each other again and formed the Midnight Rockers. It was just something that... it was the road that had to be traveled. I think it had to happen before everything else happened for me in singles. Again, at that time the wrestling business was dominated by something different, and I don't know what. It was just something different. We just gelled together. We had magic, Marty and I. I enjoyed every second of it, but there was never any doubt in my mind that one day I would eventually go by myself and be successful. That was always my very first primary goal.

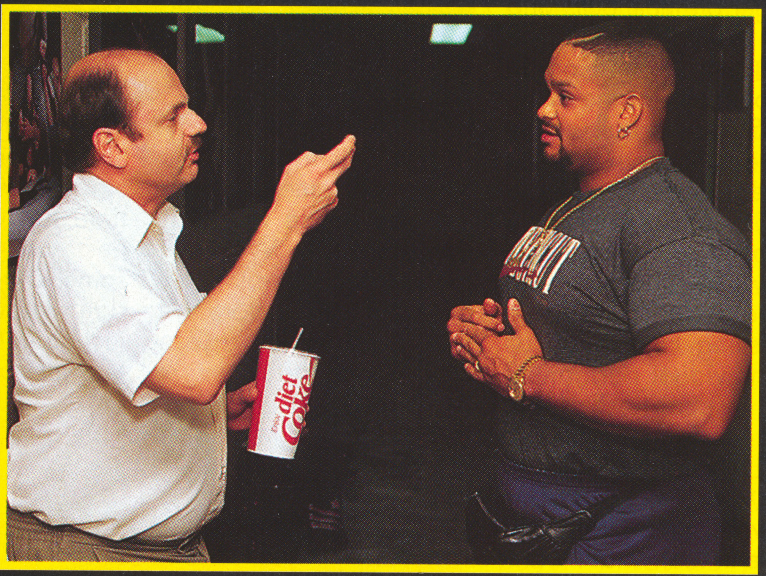
"The tag team thing just happened. When I met Marty, we tagged one time, and something was just there."

(Next month in part two of "The Kid and the Dream," Shawn Michaels discusses such topics as: the ladder match that changed his career; his personal relationship with Diesel; the horror he faced in Syracuse, New York, and how close he really did come to retirement; Vince McMahon; loyalty to the Federation; and what the future holds for him.) WF

THE INFORMER



Immediately following his savage actions on *Monday Night Raw*, fans and critics were already speculating as to when and IF VADER would ever return to the World Wrestling Federation. However, within minutes of the carnage of interim President GORILLA MONSOON, one man felt he already knew the answer to that question. "It's preposterous!" said JAMES E. CORNETTE'S attorney CLARENCE MASON when I questioned him backstage. "There is no doubt in anybody's mind that MR. VADER was provoked. He was backed into a corner by MR. MONSOON like a caged animal. It was clearly a case of self-defense. In my professional opinion, MR. VADER will be reinstated in no time! If not, MR. MONSOON can expect to be hit with a lawsuit!" The question now remains: Is MASON just talking trash, or will MR. VADER be finding his way back into the squared circle. My opinion? MR. VADER WILL BE FINDING HIS WAY BACK INTO THE SQUARED CIRCLE!... By the way, did GORILLA MONSOON care to check ROWDY RODDY PIPER'S resume before naming him the acting Federation president in his absence? I just don't see BILL CLINTON beating NEWT GINGRICH over the head with a coconut!... Rumor has it that newcomer MANKIND may have formerly wrestled under the name of CACTUS JACK. If such is the case, this could explain his mutilated ear. You see, CACTUS JACK was known for having his ear severed in a horrifying barbed-wire match in Japan!... Will JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS once again enroll in active full-time World Wrestling Federation duty? This insider says you can bet your python on it!... AHMED JOHNSON was rushed to the hospital following his *Royal Rumble* "kabonging" courtesy of DOUBLE J JEFF JARRETT. Even though many of you saw AHMED leave the ring under his own power, he passed out in the locker room a few hours later. Doctors diagnosed him as having a concussion. Exclusive photos of the incident can be seen in the premiere April issue of WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION RAW... Speaking of DOUBLE J JEFF JARRETT, I heard that there is one individual who is just BEGGIN' to get his hands on him! And, wait until he reads DOUBLE J'S comments in next month's magazine!... The rumors were reality. The ULTIMATE WARRIOR was within a hair of signing on the dotted line to compete in this year's *Royal Rumble*. At the wire, things just didn't pan out for the two sides—BUT—don't kill the deal yet! Remember—as they say—ANYTHING can happen in the World Wrestling Federation.... As of press time, GOLDUST and MARLENA were contemplating whether or not to attend the Academy Awards. In the past, GOLDUST has snubbed them, stating, "I'm not an actor; I'm a movie star!"—*My Favorite Year* 1982.... Until next time...



BARRED FROM THE BACK

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tv zone

T.V. Zone
TV ZONE
TV ZONE
TV FUSION SCHEDULE
MONDAY NIGHT RAW
PAY-PER-VIEW EVENTS
SUPERSTARS
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In-depth previews and reviews of all the latest World Wrestling Federation television shows!

slammin' shoppin'

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FEDERATION PUBLICATIONS
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sharpshootin' live

Sharpshootin' Live
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Mat Rap

Weekly auditorium rap sessions with the superstars of the World Wrestling Federation.

main screen

World Wrestling Federation
ROYAL RUMBLE
Sharpshootin' Live On AOL
Beyond The Pages
T.V. Zone
Superstar Stats
Inside Titan
GO
Slammin' Shoppin'
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bodyslammin' gallery

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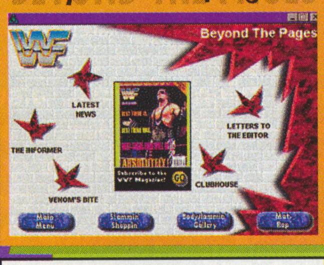
beyond the pages


Beyond The Pages
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An inside look at the latest issue of World Wrestling Federation Magazine—before it comes out!

superstar stats

Superstar Stats
SUPERSTAR STATS
SUPERSTARS MESSAGE BOARDS
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Complete bios, pictures and statistics of all the great World Wrestling Federation superstars.

mat rap

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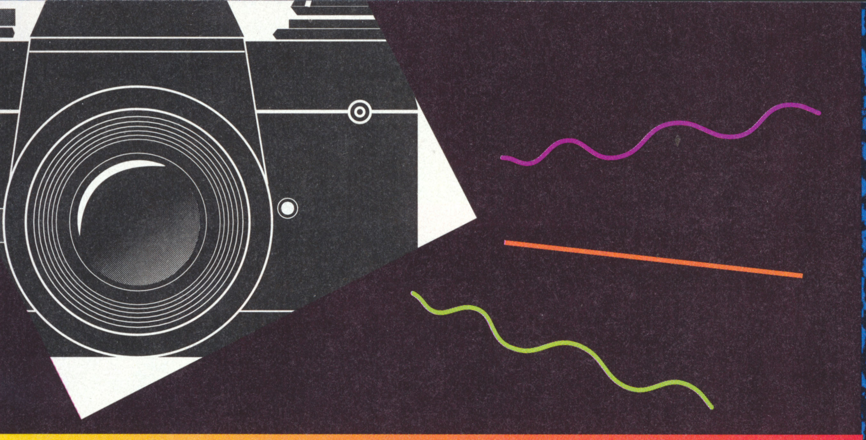


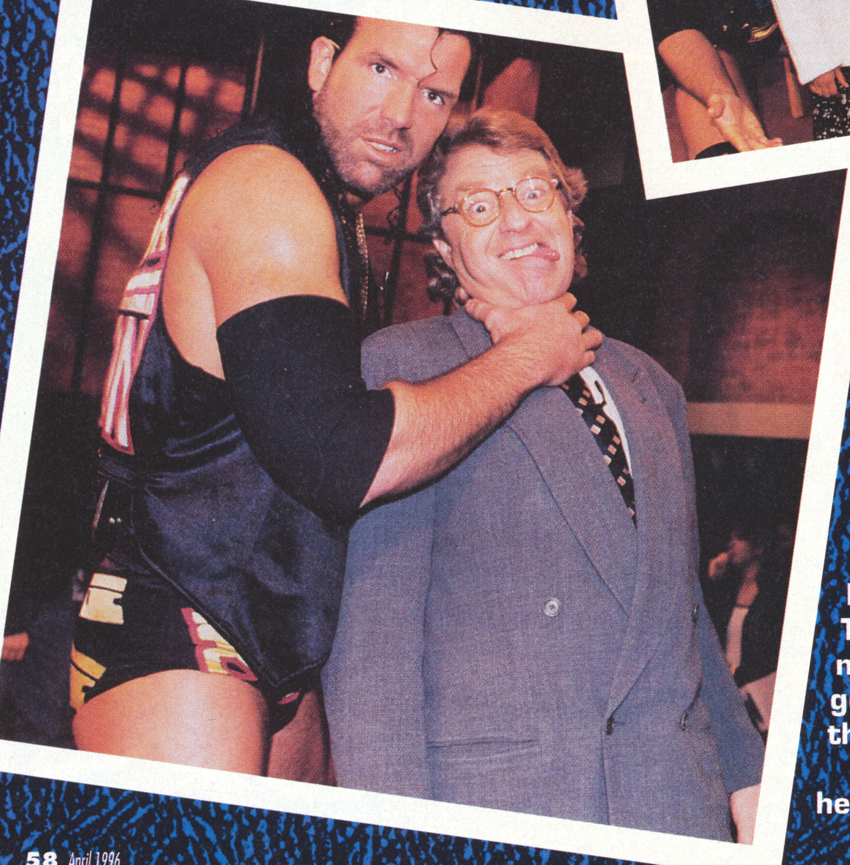
private eye

The Bad Guy With The Big Heart

PHOTOS BY STEVE KAGAN

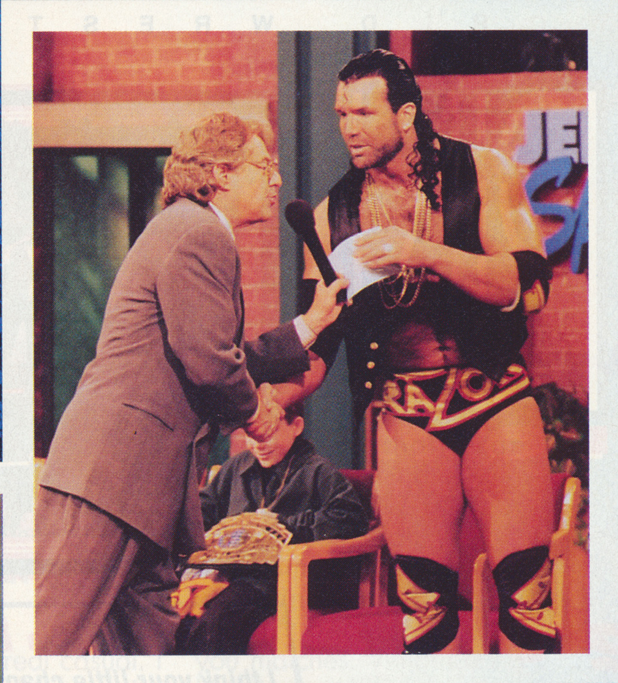
Razor Takes on the Real Champions

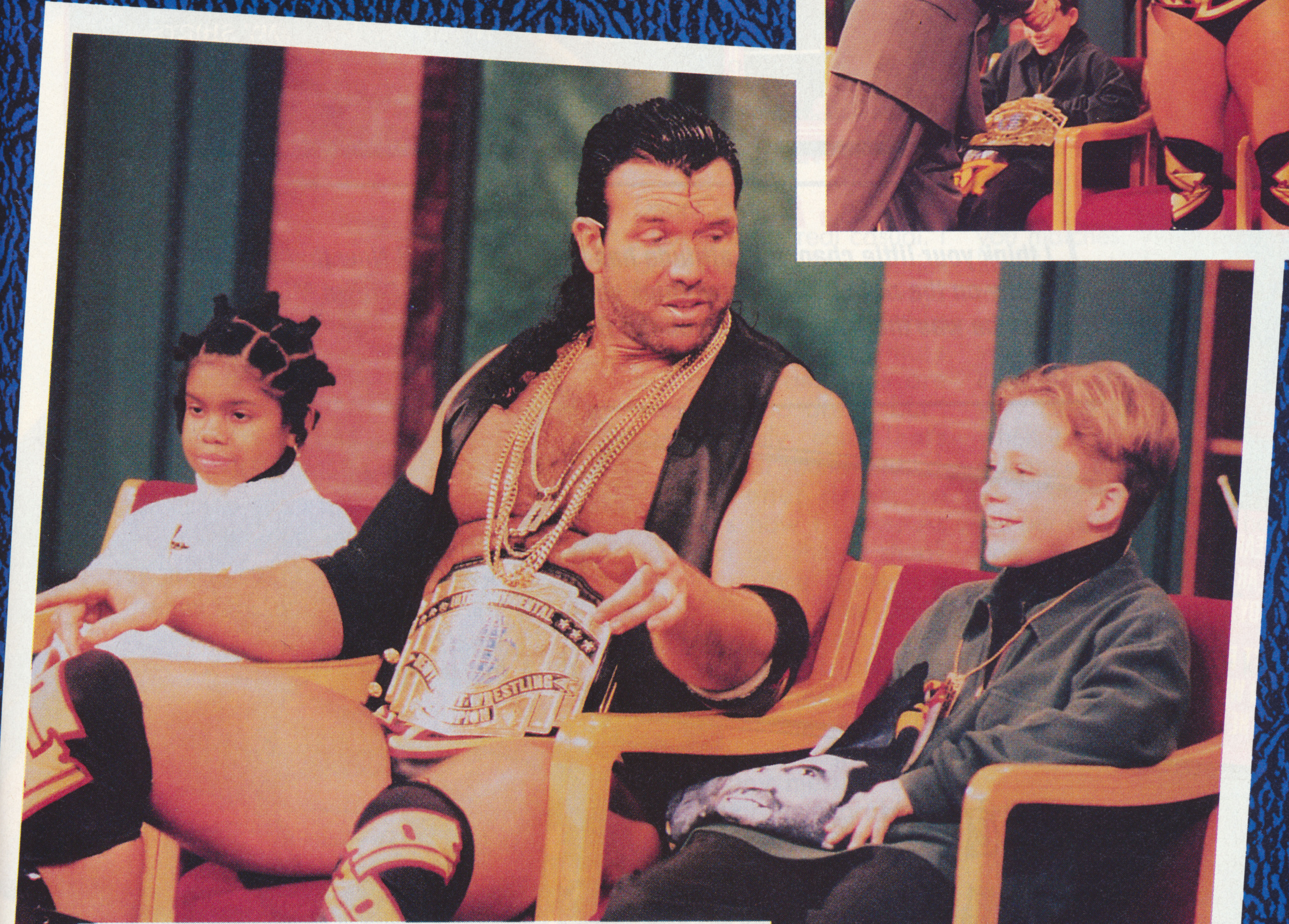
On a recent episode of the "Jerry Springer Show," Razor Ramon answered the bell when he surprised loyal supporter and big-time fan Tyler before a nationally televised audience. However, to the Bad Guy, Tyler was more of a hero to him than he could ever be to the courageous boy.

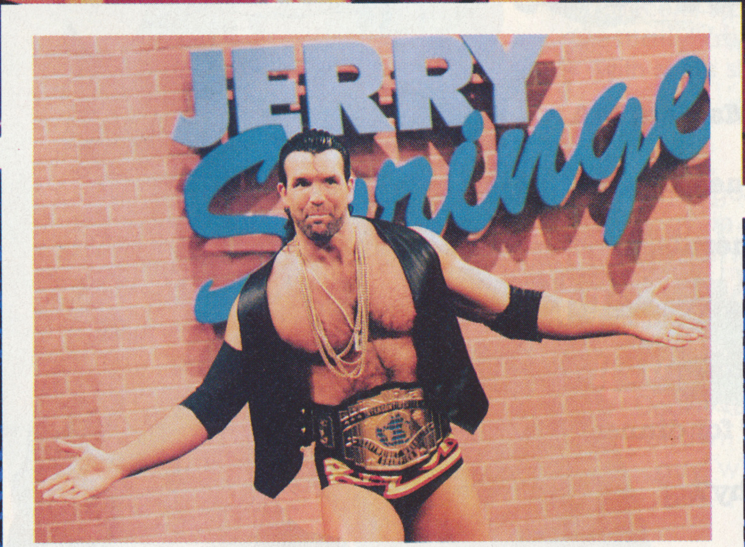


Tyler is HIV-positive due to a tainted blood transfusion. He knows what it is to fight, and according to the Bad Guy, he is truly the "real champion." Along with friend Hydeia, also a child who tested HIV-positive, Razor had these words to say: "These guys have to fight every single day of the year. I know that I'm on the road over 300 times a year, and sometimes I feel bad, but these guys are fighting the real fight!" Following those words, Razor handed over his Intercontinental Belt to Tyler and said, "This is the Intercontinental Belt. I've had it four times—I'll get another one. You just make sure that you share this with Hydeia.

"I don't need these cameras to be here," Razor went on to tell the tearyeyed audience. "In the World Wrestling Federation we do things like this every day. That's what we're all about—making little kids smile." With that, Razor turned to the two spirited children and said, "I want both Hydeia and Tyler to know—and I think that they already do—that where I come from, it ain't how many times you go down; it's how many times you get up! You ain't beat until you quit! If you don't quit, you never lose! Keep fighting!"







Razor hopes that both Hydeia and Tyler join him at WrestleMania XII as his special guests. According to the Bad Guy, he's prepared to do it big in order to show his two new friends a good time. "Planes, limos, the best hotels, whatever they need!"

PIN 'em DOWN

DEAR JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER,
DO YOU THINK YOU WILL EVER WRESTLE HAKUSHI IN A SINGLES MATCH?
DANNY KRONSTADT
FAIRFIELD, CT

WHAT FOR, EINSTEIN? WHAT WOULD IT PROVE? I COULD BEAT HIM WITH ONE CHOPSTICK TIED BEHIND MY BACK! BESIDES, IF I HURT HIM TOO BADLY, WHO WOULD STARCH MY SHIRTS THEN?

Dear British Bulldog,

I think your little change in attitude has been wonderful! Now that you are finally on the right path, do you think you will challenge Shawn Michaels, since he was the one who cost you the Royal Rumble in 1995?

John Slater, Bridgeport, CT

It's nice to see at least one of you has a brain out there! Challenge Shawn Michaels? I challenge him every day of the week! It appears that the Concussion Kid doesn't want any part of this Big Dog! You know what?—I DON'T BLAME HIM!

DEAR 1-2-3 KID, IF THE TIME COMES WHEN YOU DECIDE TO DUMP THE MILLION DOLLAR MAN TED DIBIASE, I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO BE YOUR NEW MANAGER!
WENDY SCHUFFERT, ORANGE, CA

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, HONEY. FIRST OF ALL, WHY WOULD I EVER DUMP THE ONLY MAN WHO HELPED ME SEE THE LIGHT? SECONDLY, WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY BRING TO THE TABLE BESIDES UGLINESS AND A WEIGHT PROBLEM?

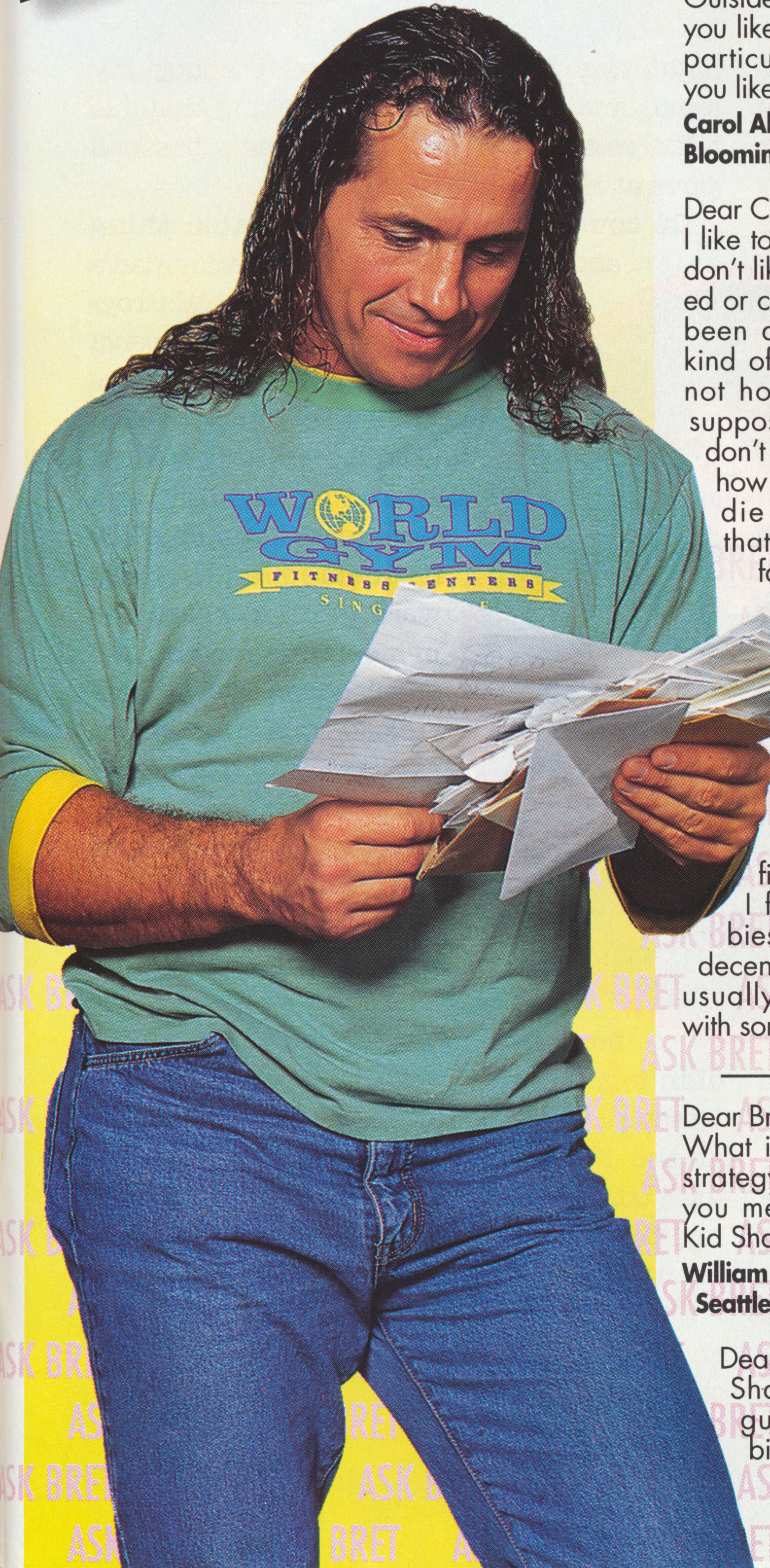
dear h.o.g., what exactly is slop?

Cathy Armstrong, Malden, MA

Now, that's a fine question. **SLOP** is a lot of things. It's part minerals, part vitamins, part stale fixin's and whatever **Lisa**, **potbelly** and **priscilla** didn't feel like eatin' for dinner! Would you like to try some, Cathy?

ASK BRET

The Hit Man Answers His Fans



Dear Bret,
Outside of the ring how do you like to dress? Is there a particular store in which you like to shop?

Carol Alta
Bloomington, MN

Dear Carol,
I like to dress real casual. I don't like to feel too restricted or confined. I've always been a jeans and T-shirt kind of guy. I know that's not how champions are supposed to dress, but I don't really care. That's how Neil Young and Eddie Vetter dress, so that's how I dress. As far as where I shop? You know, it's funny, but I have a lot of trouble finding sizes that fit me. I'm not a giant by any means, but I still have problems finding things that fit. I find that Abercrombies usually has some decent size clothing. I'm usually able to walk off with some stuff from there.

Dear Bret,
What is going to be your strategy in the ring when you meet the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels?

William Carlise
Seattle, WA

Dear William,
Shawn Michaels is a guy who's quite mobile. He's got a lot of zip. He's a great wrestler, but from an impact standpoint, I feel that I can pound him down and slow his wheels a little. He does a lot of really "fancy" stuff, but some of that fancy wrestling Shawn does doesn't necessarily win you matches. What I do is high-impact—hard, gritty, technical wrestling that will knock your socks off if you're not prepared for it. I think that Shawn and I are very close to being equal when it comes down to endurance and speed, but when we both start dishing out our heavy artillery, he's going to lose!

Dear Bret,
Do you ever help your kids with their homework?

Susan Lee
Denver, CO

Dear Susan,
I try. I'm pretty good at English and Social Studies, so I can give my kids some help there. Of course, I'm always quick to draw them stuff whenever they need any help with their art.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each month, every letter sent in to *Ask Bret* will go directly into a drawing. The winner of that drawing will not only be recognized in this magazine, but he/she will also receive an 8x10 autographed picture of the Hit Man!

THIS MONTH'S WINNER

CORREY WALLACE
DULUTH, MN

FOR KIDS ONLY

Hi, wrestling fans! This is Dallas "Sticks" Hart coming at you once again. Yeah, you guessed it. I got the drums I wanted for Christmas. In our house, "silence is not golden" anymore. Speaking of gold, this month I want to take a look back at the golden moments of past WrestleManias, more specifically at the WrestleManias that I attended.

My first WrestleMania was WrestleMania IV in Atlantic City, New Jersey, at Trump Plaza. I was 4 years old, and this was my first trip for two reasons. First of all, it was the first time I was away from my mom. Secondly, it was the first time that I was alone with my dad on a trip. I remember how amazed I was when I saw a "moving sidewalk" at the airport. The trip was going smoothly until I accidentally locked myself in our hotel bathroom. It took Dad two hours to coax me to turn the lock the other way.

I met some interesting people at WrestleMania IV. There were celebrities such as Gladys Knight, Vanna White, Bob Uecker and Ivana and Donald Trump. I asked my dad if I could take a picture with "the letter turner girl." I still have that picture up on our bulletin board of celebrity photos. The most interesting wrestler that I met that night was Andre the Giant. He shook my hand, and I couldn't help thinking that his hand was just as big as my dad's baseball glove at home in Canada.

Of course, the most memorable thing about WrestleMania IV was my dad's match. He was in the battle royal. The winner was to receive prize money and a 7-foot trophy. It came down to Bad News Brown, Junk Yard Dog and my dad. Dad and News teamed up on JYD. It seemed as if they were going to share the prize money when all of a sudden News dropkicked my dad when Dad wasn't looking. News won the match. I was really glad when I saw Dad jump back into the ring and smash the huge trophy to bits.

Although I went on quite a few trips after WrestleMania IV, I didn't go to another WrestleMania until WrestleMania VII in Los Angeles, California, at the Sports Arena. This time my dad took our whole family. He even took Grammy, Grampy, Aunt Georgia, Aunt Sandy and my cousin Bronwyne.

Jade, Bronwyne and I were reminiscing about this trip, and we all had a different story. I'll always remember the cool time we had at Disneyland. Dad's friend Mitch Ackerman is the vice president of Disney

TV, and he gave us VIP passes and a personal tour guide. We didn't have to wait in line for the rides. We agreed that our favorite ride was Splash Mountain. Jade recalled our tour of Universal Studios. Our tour guide said King Kong pulls the ponytails of little girls, and to Jade's horror, she was sporting a ponytail that day. At Universal Studios I was scared when Jaws' giant mouth came gnashing out of the water at us. Bronwyne remembered looking out of the window of our hotel and seeing a homeless person with a shopping cart. He was making a bed out of a garbage bag on the sidewalk. When she woke up the next morning, she ran to the window and saw that the homeless person was gone. Jade was 7 years old, and Bronwyne and I were 6. At a young age we all became aware of how lucky we were to have homes.

Like all of the WrestleManias, WrestleMania VII had its share of famous people. We had our picture taken with all of them. There was Henry "The Fonz" Winkler from "Happy Days" fame. Aunt Sandy was especially thrilled to get her picture taken with Willie Nelson. Jade, Bronwyne and I were psyched to see Macaulay Culkin there.

It was a Federation Tag Team Title defense for Dad and Uncle Jim that night. They took on the Nasty Boys. The last time we saw Dad before his match, he said to Jade and me, "If anything happens to me, don't get upset. I'll be OK. I always am." Dad and Uncle Jim lost the belts that night, and Jade and I cried (whoa, I can't believe that I'm telling you this).

The next WrestleMania I went to was WrestleMania VIII in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Hoosier Dome. Dad brought Grammy, Grampy and Aunt Michelle. I didn't expect Indianapolis to be such a cool city, but it was. In the airport at Indianapolis there was an Indy 500 racing car on display. My dad is a war buff, and later he took us to see the war monument in downtown Indianapolis. It was huge. Across from our hotel was an old train station that had been converted into a mall. Dad and Mom always make sure we explore the traditions and the history of any place we visit.

At the Hoosier Dome we didn't get to mingle too much because Blade was sick. I did manage to grab a glimpse of Reba McEntire as she went back into her limo. We sat in the Sky Suite and had to watch the matches on the monitor because the ring was so far away. One perk was that we had our own waitress with free popcorn and pop.

Dad was fighting Rowdy Roddy Piper for Roddy's Intercontinental Belt. It was a grueling match, and I was concerned when I saw blood coming from my dad's nose. Things got so tough that Roddy was going to hit Dad with the timekeeper's bell. Fortunately, Roddy couldn't do it because he respects my dad too much. Dad won the belt that night and many belts since.

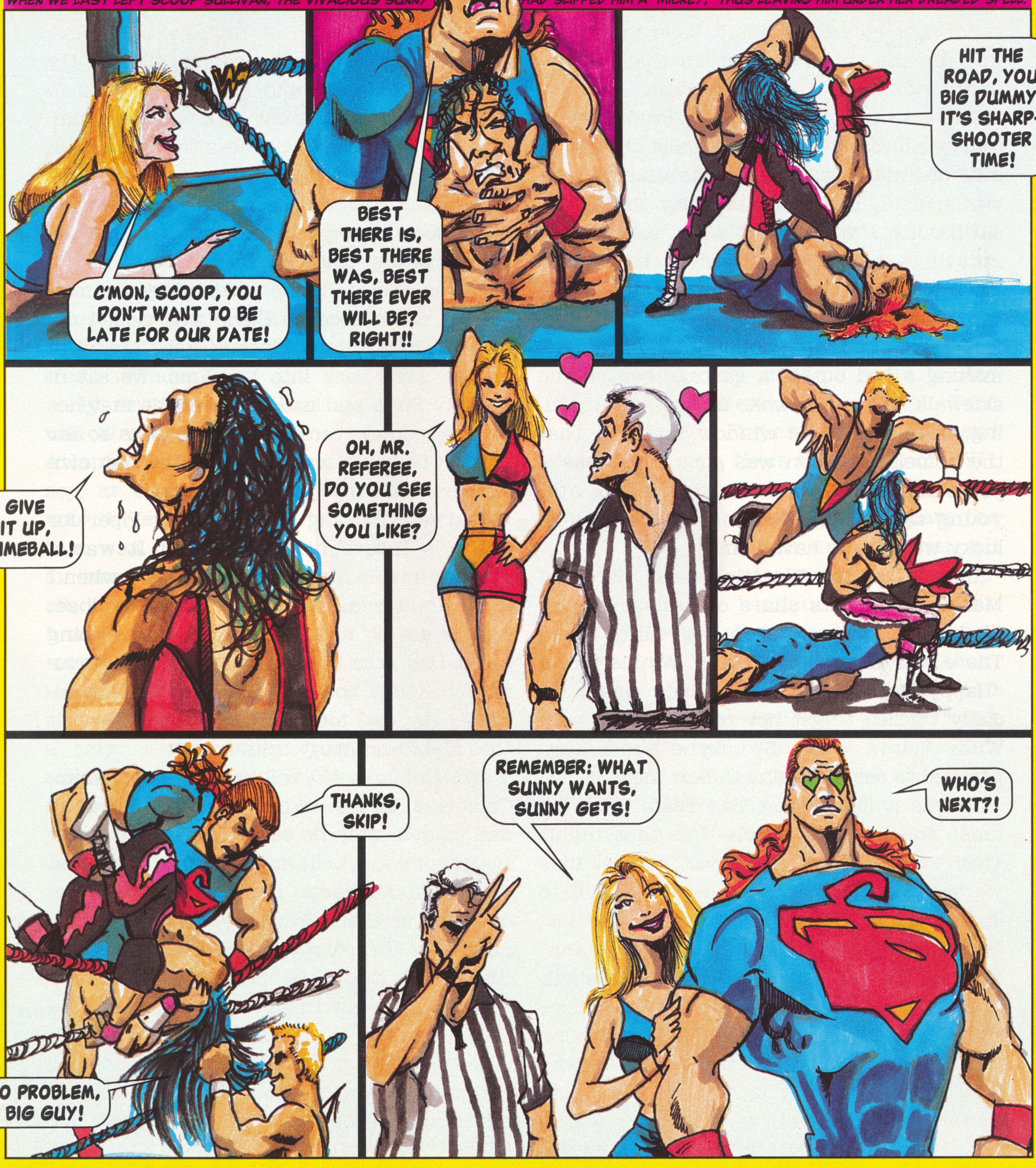
WrestleMania XII will be held in Anaheim, California, at the Arrowhead Pond. Here my dad (that's after he beats Diesel at In Your House, of couse) either takes on Uncle Owen or Shawn Michaels. It all depends on the outcome of their February In Your House match-up. If Shawn does win, it worries me that he has had three months off to recover and get himself in shape, while my dad has defended the belt every night ever since he won it. My faith is in my dad, and we will all be there for him because our family motto is "UNITED WE STAND, UNITED WE TAKE ALL!!!"

SCOOP SULLIVAN

ARTIST HOWARD M. COLBERT
WRITER VINCE RUSSO

SQUARED CIRCLE SUPERHERO

WHEN WE LAST LEFT SCOOP SULLIVAN, THE VIVACIOUS SUNNY HAD SLIPPED HIM A "MICKEY," THUS LEAVING HIM UNDER HER DREADED SPELL.


C'MON, SCOOP, YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR OUR DATE!
BEST THERE IS, BEST THERE WAS, BEST THERE EVER WILL BE? RIGHT!!
HIT THE ROAD, YOU BIG DUMMY! IT'S SHARP-SHOOTER TIME!
GIVE IT UP, SLIMEBALL!
OH, MR. REFEREE, DO YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKE?
THANKS, SKIP!
NO PROBLEM, BIG GUY!
REMEMBER: WHAT SUNNY WANTS, SUNNY GETS!
WHO'S NEXT?!

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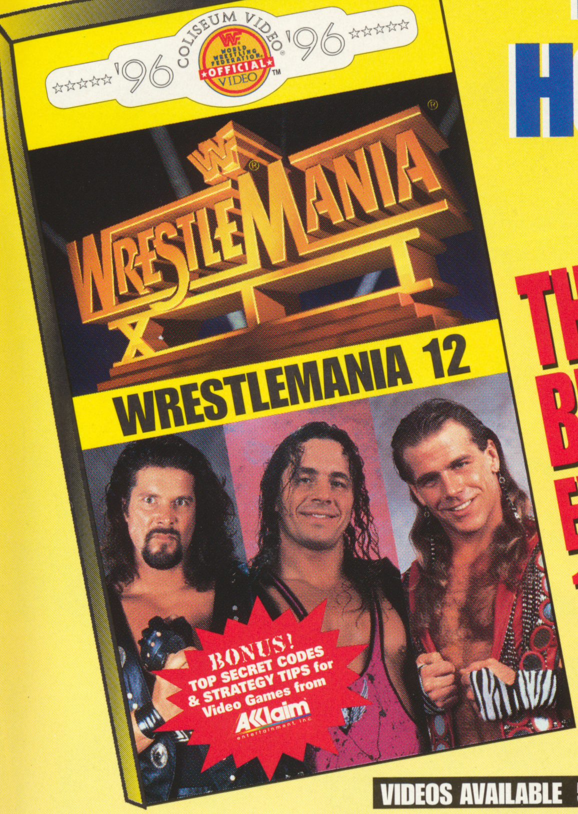
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